

## Prime Minister shrugs off polls, brings pressure to save reporter

## Thatcher set to ride out 'media storm'

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister last night signalled her determination to remain leader of the Conservative Party, brushing aside polls indicating that up to a quarter of Tory MPs want her to quit before the next general election.

The uncompromising message from Cabinet ministers and the party hierarchy was that, despite unease among Conservative backbenchers over the poll tax and the economy, it was business as usual.

One senior Whitchall source said she was happy to ride out the storm and that ministers would continue to govern successfully.

The spate of rumours about her position were seen as nothing more than "media" inspired, with few leading Conservatives willing to comment publicly for fear of fueling the speculation.

But Mr Cecil Parkinson attempted to rally the party

with a strong call to the Conservatives to stop arguing among themselves and start selling the community charge to the country.

Other ministers dismissed speculation about Mrs Thatcher's position as leader as a "media story" that was to be expected at a time when the party was trailing in the opinion polls and the economy was doing badly.

One said: "I think this whole leadership issue is rubbish ... if anyone wants to challenge Mrs Thatcher, they can put themselves forward. I

Leading article ..... 15

am sure, if that happened, she would fight, and see them off."

Although ministers admit that the party is being buffeted by economic difficulties and problems over the poll tax, they believe the Prime Minister can weather the storm.

On Saturday Mrs Thatcher dismissed as "poppcock" any suggestion that she would stand down, and her supporters believe that if the economy revives and the problems over the community charge are eased, her position will improve.

They are also heartened by the lack of an obvious agreed successor and ridicule the idea of her going quietly after a visit by leading members of the Cabinet and party urging her to step down.

In his attempt to rally the Tories, Mr Parkinson, architect of the Conservatives' 1983 election victory, acknowledged the strength and charisma of Mr Michael Heseltine as a future party leader.

Mr Parkinson warned disident Conservative MPs to stop arguing among themselves. He told "disgruntled" Tories that they were damaging the Government and aiding its enemies.

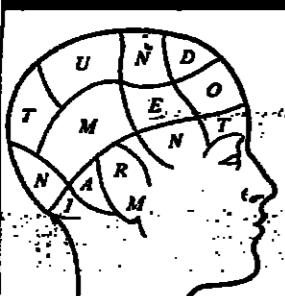
He admitted that there were a few disaffected people, particularly in marginal seats. "People feel a little insecure. But we're not helping anybody except our opponents by staying at our navels and trying to read the oracle. What we have got to accept is that Margaret is going to lead us into the next election."

The economy would come right; the poll tax was not going to change this year. "Let's get on with the business of explaining it, instead of indulging in wishful thinking," he said.

Though Mr Parkinson insisted that Mrs Thatcher will win it.

**TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND**

## INSIDE



## TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

## ● The Times

Tournament of the Mind, with prizes of £5,000 and, for school teams, a computer, starts its second week page 13

● Today The Times special Monday morning sports coverage is on pages 23-30. Business News is on pages 36-40

● The conflict between the Church and industry will be addressed by a seminar this week, attended by top clerics and businessmen. On page 13 Provost David Edwards traces the controversy.

## TOMORROW

● Our special 10-page report looks at the state of the law in the 1990s

## England blank

Hopes of play starting yesterday in the Second Test between England and West Indies in Guyana, were dashed by rain ..... Page 25

## Palace plight

Crystal Palace, who were beaten 9-0 by Liverpool last September, will play the FA Cup semi-final in the semi-finals, if Liverpool win a replay with QPR ..... Page 23, 26

## INDEX

Home News ..... 2, 3, 5, 7, 8  
Overseas ..... 10-12  
Business ..... 36-40  
Sport ..... 35-40  
Arts ..... 18  
Births, marriages, deaths ..... 17  
Chess ..... 2  
Court & Social ..... 18  
Crème de la crème ..... 34, 35  
Crosswords ..... 20, 22  
Diary ..... 14  
Education classified ..... 31-33  
Entertainments ..... 20  
Features ..... 13, 14, 19  
Law Report ..... 35  
Leading articles ..... 15  
Letters ..... 15  
Nature notes ..... 16  
Obituary ..... 18  
On This Day ..... 17  
Preview ..... 20  
Religion ..... 16  
Sexton ..... 3  
Science Report ..... 15  
Snow Report ..... 27  
TV & Radio ..... 24  
Weather ..... 22

## Ashdown sets sights on party's political revival

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Paddy Ashdown attempted yesterday to set off a revival in the political fortunes of the Liberal Democrats by claiming them to be the moral voice of the nation.

The Liberal Democrat leader received a rapturous reception at his party's spring conference in Cardiff by insisting that Mrs Thatcher's brand of Conservatism had run out of time. Events in Eastern Europe, he said, where people were calling for liberal democracy, showed that there

was no desire for socialism either in the 1990s.

Attempting to capitalize on the Government's poll tax troubles and the controversy over Labour's "roof tax" alternative, Mr Ashdown said that they proved that local government was not safe in the hands of either party. "Ours is the party of local government."

He told his supporters: "This is a party that is in business and means to stay in business." He added: "This is a party that is in business and means to stay in business."

Conference reports, page 7

## Militant recruits jobless through council centres

By Ray Clancy

A national network of resource centres set up by Labour-controlled councils for the unemployed is being used as the campaign headquarters of the violent anti-poll tax demonstrators.

Branches of the All-Britain Poll Tax Federation, which is closely associated with Militant and other extreme left-wing groups, are using the centres as their campaign headquarters with the blessing of councillors. The Times has

Liverpool City Council, was previously rented to a building contractor for £3,000 a year, but it now houses the North-West branch of the anti-poll tax federation.

Last night, Mr Kevan Coombes, leader of the Labour-controlled council, said: "I was approached by the federation

Labour braced ..... 2  
Employers' poll tax fear ..... 2  
Letters ..... 15

about the use of the shop which had been empty for some time. A motion was put to the council and approved.

"I see nothing wrong with some of Liverpool's empty buildings being used by groups of any political persuasion." He added that although the shop was

being provided rent-free, electricity, gas and telephone bills were being paid by the federation.

Elsewhere, the federation has been recruiting young unemployed people found at centres set up by councils, especially in Militant strongholds such as Manchester, Newcastle, Southampton, Coventry, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

In some cases national combines of workers meet regularly at these centres where they ally themselves to the federation and other groups supporting left-wing activities. The centres are used as postal addresses and meeting places. Telephone lines have been installed and anti-poll tax offices set up and run by unemployed people. "These centres

Continued on page 22, col 8



Mr Coombes: Approved use of council facilities.



Europe  
envoys in  
pleas for  
mercy

By Andrew McEwen  
in London and  
Christopher Walker  
in Cairo

Amid anger and dismay over the death sentence passed by an Iraqi court against Farzad Bazoft, Britain yesterday brought international pressure to bear on President Saddam Hussein to show clemency.

The European Community interceded within hours at Britain's request, sending the three ambassadors in Baghdad of the Irish Republic, Italy and France to plead for the Observer reporter's life.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who held three hours of talks yesterday with King Hussein of Jordan at Chequers, asked to use his influence with the Iraqi

Ruthless Saddam ..... 11  
Photograph ..... 11  
Leading article ..... 15

leader. Whitehall sources said he would see what he could do. The King is regarded as President Saddam's closest confidant and ally in the Arab world.

Britain also asked other countries to help. They were not named, but probably included Egypt, Jordan and Egypt are linked with Iraq in the Arab Co-operation Council, a new regional grouping of conservative Arab states.

The unusually large diplomatic effort reflected fears that the sentence might be carried out quickly, as no appeal is allowed in Iraq.

Mr Bazoft and Mrs Daphne Parish, the British nurse who was sentenced to 15 years, Contained on page 22, col 4

## Lithuania on the brink of final break

From Anatol Lieven  
Vilnius

Lithuania was on the point of declaring itself a sovereign state last night, after electing the first non-communist head of state in a Soviet republic and then voting to drop the words Soviet and Socialist from its name.

Senior Conservatives are anxious that the party does not become railroaded by the media into a leadership crisis which does not yet exist.

Mr Heseltine, who has not been invited to assist the Conservative campaign in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election, yesterday denied a report that he had been invited to a secret meeting by a group of disident MPs wanting him to launch an immediate leadership bid.

He said: "I have had no invitation and I would not go to such a meeting."

Asked about the leadership, he said: "I cannot see the circumstances in which I would challenge Mrs Thatcher. I have always believed she will take us into the next general election and that the Conservative Party will win it."

Observers here feel that a

break could mark the first official step in the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and believe that if Moscow cannot prevent it, the Kremlin may seek to discourage other republics by making Lithuania's path as difficult as possible.

In another historic step, immediately following Dr Landsbergis's election, Mrs Kazimira Prunskiene, a leading communist member of the Sajudis, and the present Deputy Prime Minister, was elected as interim Prime Minister.

Prunskiene thus becomes the first woman head of government in a previously communist state. She has won great public admiration for her determination in negotiations with Moscow and for her work in trying to strengthen Lithuania's economic independence.

A prepared declaration before the parliament stated that "the Supreme Soviet of the

Lithuanian republic proclaims the restoration of the sovereign rights of the Lithuanian state, interrupted in 1940". It says that the independence established in 1918 has never been annulled. "It remains in force and is the constitutional basis of Lithuanian statehood." The statement, which is of the greatest importance in view of President Gorbachov's warning that separation from the Soviet Union could lead to the removal of territories given to Lithuania by the Soviet Union in the

1940s, declares the territory and frontiers of the present Lithuanian republic inviolable, and refers to the declaration of the Helsinki conference in 1975, ruling out frontier changes in Europe.

The declaration cancels all legislative and executive powers in Lithuania vested in "any other state" on Lithuanian territory.

Accompanying declarations appeal to the international community and the other nations of the Soviet Union could lead to the removal of territories given to Lithuania by the Soviet Union in the

Continued on page 22, col 1

## REMINDER

## SCHOOL FEES DUE NOW...

Eligible parents can now take advantage of a unique Education Fund - The Schools & College Programme which enables parents immediate access to funds to pay school fees NOW and in the future.

Full written details available on request, telephone, (0932) 568868 or complete the coupon below.

Mr Richard Carson-Parker, Financial Planning Consultant, representing Allied Dunbar Assurance plc. THE SCHOOLS & COLLEGE PROGRAMME, Allied Dunbar House, Chilsey Green Road, Chilsey, Surrey KT16 9HB

Please contact me to find out more details.

Name ..... Address ..... Postcode ..... Home Tel. No. ..... Office Tel. No. ..... SCP 2/3

THE SCHOOLS & COLLEGE PROGRAMME  
EDUCATION SCHOOL FEES

ALLIED DUNBAR

Richard Carson-Parker is a licensed credit broker. Security and suitable life cover will be required. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up your payments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it.

## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Inquiry call on child sex rituals

The NSPCC is to press for an investigation into the extent of child pornography and organized sex rings (Libby Jukes writes). In its annual report published today the society says it is particularly concerned at mounting evidence of planned ritualistic abuse, involving children in bizarre ceremonies.

Since the discovery of one such ring in Leeds five years ago, more police resources have been allocated to tackle the problem. Scotland Yard's Child Pornography Squad, set up last November, has six officers working on paedophilia. They are issued with search warrants on a weekly basis.

Miss Michele Elliott, director of Kidscape, the child protection charity, said: "We need to raise public awareness of abuse. Many decent people simply cannot believe that sex rings exist, so they effectively collude by ignoring the obvious signs."

## Hong Kong package

Hong Kong residents aged between 30 and 40 will account for a large proportion of the 50,000 heads of household granted British citizenship under the nationality package prepared by the Government to maintain business confidence in the colony, it has been disclosed. The Government is close to completing the "points scheme" that will determine who gets British passports, but the Bill, to be published before Easter, faces Tory backbench opposition.

## Hospital status vote

Staff ballots in five London teaching hospitals have shown that nine out of 10 health workers do not want their hospital to become self-governing (Jill Sherman writes). A survey published today by the London Health Emergency Group shows that 7,753 staff (89.1 per cent) opposed the move. The greatest opposition was at the North Middlesex Hospital in Haringey; 96.7 of staff voted against opting out. The poll was conducted by the Electoral Reform Society.

## Boeing warning fault

Boeing has set up a task force under its chief engineer, Mr Bob Davis, to produce new computer software for the latest Boeing 747-400 jet to modify its electronic systems after complaints from airlines of technical problems which have led to delays and cancellations on long-haul flights (Our Air Correspondent writes). Boeing is to cut out 600 automatic checks by the on-board computer to try to eliminate often spurious warnings which forced pilots to delay take-off.

## Death of Lord Stewart

Lord Stewart of Fulham, formerly Mr Michael Stewart, Labour's Foreign Secretary in the late 1960s, died in hospital early on Saturday. Lord Stewart, aged 83, who was twice Foreign Secretary, had been active in the House of Lords until he was taken ill. A former president of the Oxford Union, he was the MP for Fulham for 34 years until his life began in 1979. He held a series of top posts in Mr Harold Wilson's Cabinet between 1964 and 1970. *Obituary*, page 16

## Employers fear burden of having to 'dock' pay of poll tax debtors

BATH COLTON

By Kevin Eason

One of Britain's biggest employer organizations yesterday joined the chorus of disapproval over the poll tax in a warning of a "significant extra burden" faced by companies collecting debts from workers on behalf of local authorities.

In a letter to Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, the Engineering Employers' Federation expressed concern that, under community charge regulations, employers could be required to deduct poll tax debts direct from workers' pay.

That would involve signifi-

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, quashed calls from his party's rank and file at the spring conference in Cardiff yesterday for a nationwide campaign to delay payment of the poll tax (John Lewis writes).

He said: "I don't think that

will work and I do not agree."

Party leaders were wary about anything which smacked, however faintly, of a disobe-

dience campaign. They also

wanted to avoid the alter-

native of a local income tax

being lost in the argument.

Conference, page 7

cant administration problems of dealing with magistrates' courts and local authorities.

The federation adds that it is worried that government advice to local authorities that "for recovering the debts of those in stable employment, an attachment of earnings order may be the most suitable remedy", could lead to damaged relationships between companies, employees and unions.

The deductions would also have to be calculated with a complex formula according to the employee's pay, leaving the employer to decide how

much should be repaid from wages towards the poll tax debt.

The federation, which represents more than 5,000 companies, says that would "place a heavy workload on employers, which is totally unrelated to their businesses".

Employers who fail to comply with orders made by courts for local authorities could also face prosecution.

Companies are permitted to deduct £1 to cover the cost of making a poll tax payment on a debtor employee's behalf, but, the federation said, that would barely cover the administrative cost.

However, in a welcome boost for the Government, struggling against critics of its rates reform, a survey shows that four out of five company directors believe that the new Uniform Business Rate (UBR) will have little effect on the viability of business.

A survey by the Institute of Directors shows today that although 44 per cent of directors are considering appealing against their new rates assessments, 49 per cent expect their bills to be the same or lower. However, nearly all — about 92 per cent — said that they would not move their businesses to find lower UBR rates zones.

Dr Ann Robinson, head of the institute's policy unit, said: "The UBR gets a very mixed reception from our members, although the majority clearly feel they can cope. It is good news for Northern manufacturers who have suffered an excessive rates burden for many years and bad news for retailers in the South — in other words, good for exports, bad for imports."

• The Labour leadership yesterday accused the Conservatives of "attempting to smear" the party over Militant



Part of a crowd of 500 outside City Hall, Norwich, yesterday when a £365 charge was set. Tendency involvement in violent protests against the poll tax (Our Political Correspondent writes).

They accused Mr Kenneth Baker, the chairman of the Conservative Party, of reaching the gutter in his attacks on Labour and warned that this

leadership is trying to limit the damage that far-left involvement in violent protests could do Labour's standing by highlighting action against Militant.

Letters, page 15

## Ulster murder is third in five days

By Edward Gorman  
Irish Affairs  
Correspondent

Political violence in Northern Ireland claimed its 11th victim this year and its third in five days when a Roman Catholic man was shot dead by hooded "loyalist" gunmen in West Belfast yesterday.

The victim, Mr Eamonn Quinn, aged 32, who was married with a young son, was shot as he worked on his car in Kashmear Road, in the Clonard district.

Police said that the killers travelled in a light blue hatchback car which had been stolen from a Protestant area in the north-west of the city.

A spokesman for Sinn Fein said he had no connection with any political or terrorist organization and claimed that he may have been the victim of a random shooting by the "loyalists".

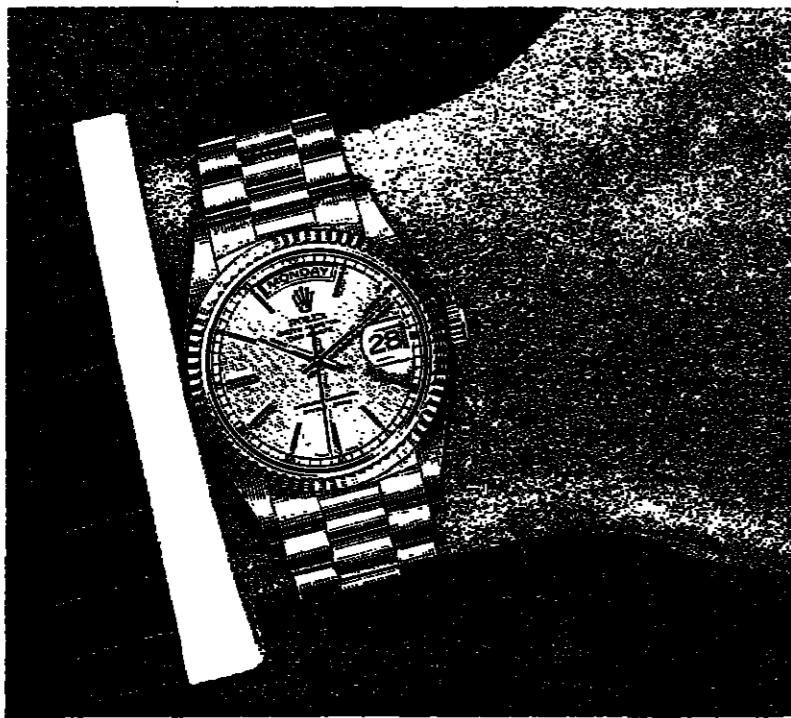
Mr Quinn's death follows the murder by the "loyalist" Ulster Volunteer Force of Mr Samuel Marshall, a Roman Catholic from Lurgan, on Wednesday, and that of Mr Thomas Jameson, a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, who was ambushed by the IRA near Dungannon, the following day.

His funeral was held in Magherafelt, Co Londonderry, yesterday afternoon.

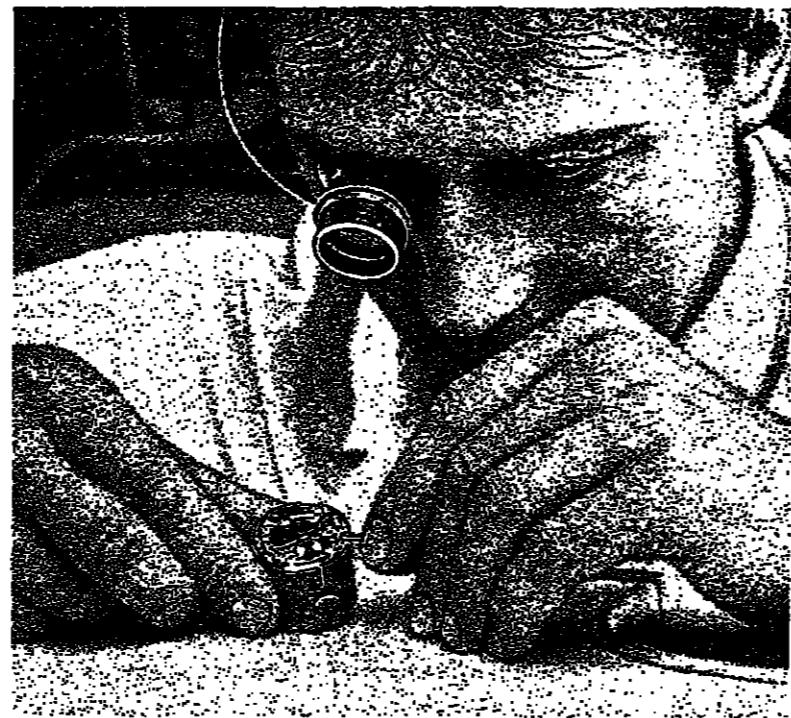
• Mr Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP, is to have talks within the next month with Mr Charles Haughey, the first time in a quarter of a century that a Unionist has met an Irish premier formally.

The meeting in Dublin will deal only with Articles Two and Three of the Republic's constitution, the Fermagagh-South Tyrone MP said yesterday. These claim sovereignty over Northern Ireland.

## There are two ways of looking at a Rolex Oyster Chronometer.



ON THE WRIST: THIS ROLEX OYSTER PERPETUAL DAY-DATE SHOWS ITS STYLE.



INSIDE A MECHANISM DEMONSTRATING ROLEX PRECISION AND CRAFT.

Should you happen to be in the right place at the right time, then a swift glance at the wrists of some of the world's greatest achievers is one way.

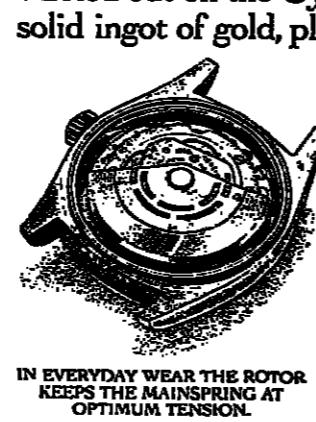
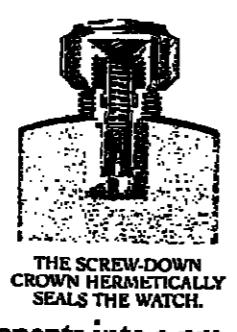
At either the North or South poles you could have looked at the one on the wrist of Sir Ranulph Fiennes, on Everest you could have seen the one

Sir Edmund Hillary wears, or you could always peer through the murky depths of the North Sea at the ones worn by Comex divers.

However closely you look at the outside of a Rolex Oyster Chronometer though, you won't see a fraction of the intricacy our watchmakers see inside.

They have carefully scrutinised every one of the 220 precision components — like the rhodium-plated base, the bridge wheels and pinions, the finely-tuned escapement with the Chronometer balance and rare overcoil hairspring — which together make up the movement of this truly remarkable watch.

They've had plenty of time to look as well, because the creation of a Rolex Oyster Chronometer takes many months. A period in which Swiss craftsmen apply the finest tolerances as they assemble the components into a precise time-keeping machine. A period in which every step of the process undergoes human, mechanical or electronic testing, because the creation of a Rolex movement demands a passion for perfection.



There is one other body that checks a Rolex Oyster Chronometer almost as carefully as we do — the independent Swiss Institute for Chronometer Tests. Their impartial testing, in five positions at three temperatures, is the reason every Rolex Oyster Chronometer carries a Red Seal and also the inscription *Officially Certified Superlative Chronometer* on the dial.



Only a select group of jewellers sell Rolex watches. For the address of your nearest Rolex jeweller and for further information on the complete range of Rolex watches, write to: The Rolex Watch Company Limited, 1 Green Street, London W1Y 4JY or telephone 01-629 5071.

## Labour braces itself for Militant 'spoiling' tactics

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Labour is bracing itself for a Militant influx this week in the Mid-Shropshire by-election and an attempt by the group to derail Mrs Sylvia Heil's campaign.

Two Militant-organized meetings aimed at fanning opposition to the community charge are planned in Rugeley and Lichfield. On Saturday Militant supporters distributed leaflets advertising a national demonstration in London against the poll tax at the end of the month.

Labour organizers believe Militant wants to prevent a Labour victory in the Midlands' Tory stronghold as part of its campaign against Mr Neil Kinnock's moderation of left-wing policies. Now that almost every local council has set its poll tax, Militant supporters have time to turn their attention to the by-election.

Labour has also sought to counter Conservative attempts to link the party with the violence accompanying the final chapter in the introduction of the community charge. It has rushed out a leaflet based on Mr Kinnock's speech in Scotland in which he denounced "toytown revolutionaries".

The leaflet says: "People who use violence and intimidation are to be condemned. They divert attention from the person who is guilty of the tax in the first place — Margaret Thatcher. She pretends to be outraged but in reality she hopes her guilt is obscured by up roar outside town halls."

Mrs Heil will be joined

today by Mrs Glynis Kinnock, wife of the Labour leader, on visits to a school for handicapped children and a private nursery for the children of working mothers.

Mrs Kinnock has been taking a close interest in a scheme to franchise some 50 "Busy Bee" nurseries across the country. Two have already opened in Lichfield.

The visits are intended to underline Mrs Heil's caring credentials — she has worked with the long-term disabled for many years — and to

highlight the Government's alleged indifference to their plight.

The second week of the campaign should see a higher profile for the Green Party — at present enmeshed in the struggle for third place with the two former Alliance parties — the Liberal Democrats and the SDP.

The opinion polls suggest that all three are fighting for about 10 per cent of the vote. The campaign of Mr Robert Saunders, aged 29, the Green candidate and a buyer for a Welsh engineering company, should, however, be lifted by the presence today of Mr

David Icke, one of the environmental party's best-known spokesmen.

Mr Icke said: "A massive Green vote on March 22 will land like a rocket among the politicians of Westminster. If we are going to change from our take, make and throw away society, we are going to have to show the Government that people are prepared to put their votes where their priorities are.

"We are sure their priorities are to seek a clean, safe world where our future is secure. Greens have been elected to parliaments around the world; it's time the people of Mid-Shropshire took the lead here."

Mr Tim Jones, the SLD candidate, dismissed the Green programme as "half-baked" and said that on many issues it had no answers at all. Mr Saunders's solution to just about everything was to set up a committee, Mr Jones said.

"One does not deal with a murder squad, coming over from Iran or the Lebanon to attack Salman Rushdie, by forming a committee in the villages of Staffordshire to decide what to do about it," he said.

The Conservatives were dispirited and desperate, Mr Jones said, and Labour was fighting a negative campaign made up of glossy literature devoid of serious policy content.

"Their slogan — vote for what you value — is their way of trying to be all things to all men. They are not saying what they value."

## Buried Lancasters may take to the air

By Libby Jukes

Plans to resurrect six Avro Lancaster bombers from their grave near a defunct Second World War airfield will take a step forward today when computer pictures showing their precise location and condition are produced from radar soundings taken of the site last week.

Many of the 8,000 surplus aircraft left after the war were burnt, but the cache at Elstham Woods, South Humberside, was carefully buried.

Dr Keith Percival-Barker, special projects officer with the Bomber Airfields Association, said the aircraft wings were strapped along the fuselages, which were then wrapped inessian shrouds and laid side by side, facing east and 20ft deep in a quarry. The engines were interred separately nearby.

The society hopes to exhume the aircraft this summer when the wheatsfield over their grave has been harvested.

Dr Percival-Barker, who is leading the operation, said: "The MoD has licensed us at every stage so far, and the

## Karpov in control of eliminator

By Raymond Keene  
Chess Correspondent

Anatoly Karpov, of the Soviet Union, the former world chess champion, is in firm control in his world title eliminator against the Dutch grandmaster, Jan Timman, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The best of 12 games contest will decide who challenges Gary Kasparov in New York in October. Karpov leads 2-1. The fourth game is tomorrow.

Here are the moves of the first game, with Karpov playing black:

White	Black	White	Black
1 Nf3	Nf6	19 Nf4	Bf5
1 e4	e5	20 Nc3	Be6
2 Nc3	g5	21 Rg1	Rg8
3 Bb5	h6	22 Bg5	Rc8
4 Bb4	g6	23 Rg6	Rc6
5 Re1	Re7	24 Rg6	g5
6 Rg1	g5	25 Be3	g6
7 Bf3	g6	26 Cg4	Bf5
8 Cg5	0-0	27 Bf4	Nf7
9 h3	Bf7	28 Bg5	Nf5
10 d4	Re8	29 Bg7	Nf7
11 Nf2	h5	30 Nf5	Kf7
12 Nc3	h4	31 Bg8	Kf7
13 Re2	h3	32 Nf4	g5
14 cd	h2	33 Nc2	g4
15 Bf1	h1	34 Bg2	



# Stalin's labour camps.

## We see what no Western eyes have seen before.

For the last three years we've been putting together what we believe is one of the most powerful television documentary series ever made.

During that time we've seen and heard things that have seriously shaken our usual journalistic detachment.

None more so than what we saw on a remote stretch of frozen wasteland in the North of Russia beyond the Arctic Circle.

Here we became the first Westerners ever to set eyes on "Section 501," the name given to one of Josef Stalin's forced labour camps or gulags.

One of 8,000 similar camps, Section 501 was where Stalin sent 'social deviants' to be punished and, so he claimed, rehabilitated.

The truth is, however, that most of these so-called 'deviants' were plain, ordinary people like you or me and their rehabilitation consisted of being frozen, starved and worked to death.

Their crimes? Acts of treason like telling jokes about Stalin, listening to the BBC World Service and playing decadent American jazz music.

Even a simple hobby like stamp-collecting could get you imprisoned on a

charge of having contacts with foreign countries.

For heinous offences such as these, it is estimated that more than 10 million people died in the gulags.

There were survivors; some are still living.

Today they are frail and old, yet for us they relived the worst moments of their lives.

We talked to their children and their grandchildren.

We covered eleven thousand miles within the Soviet Union alone, and conducted interviews in Russian, Georgian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Serbo-Croat and English.

We watched over a million feet of unseen Soviet archive film.

We spoke to Lenin's niece, Trotsky's grandson and even Svetlana Stalin, daughter of the man who conceived and created the forced labour camps.

Perhaps the most disturbing journey we made was our exploration into the heart and mind of Stalin himself.

What we find there, lurking in the darkness, you can see for yourself in "Stalin," a major new documentary series from Thames Television which begins on Tuesday 13th March at 10.35pm on ITV.

As you might imagine, getting the KGB to let us see the forced labour camps was anything but easy.

Reporting what we saw there, however, was probably the hardest thing we've ever done.



"STALIN"  
STARTS  
TOMORROW  
10.35 PM.

THAMES. A TALENT FOR TELEVISION.





Super Shuttle runs more often, so you don't have to.

**BRITISH AIRWAYS**  
The world's favourite airline

We've added even more flights to our Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast routes. In fact no other airline flies more frequently to the main business centres in the UK. So, if you've got a busy schedule, don't worry, so has British Airways.

**SUPER  
SHUTTLE  
EXECUTIVE**

Radical gr  
policy to c  
nuclear po

Tax system to  
basic income for

Liberal Dem  
Ashdow

Liberal Democrats' leader attacks Thatcher and Kinnock at two-day spring conference in Cardiff

# Ashdown sets out for a future with Europe

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Paddy Ashdown said yesterday that his Liberal Democratic Party represented the moral voice of the nation.

At his party's two-day spring conference in Cardiff Mr Ashdown said Thatcherism was out of tune with the times, while Labour policy at the last election and at the next election would "always be equal and opposite".

Labour, he said, would do anything for votes; the Conservatives would always put private interests before public services. He set out the Liberal Democrats' stall as that of unashamed, integrationist Europeans, ready to assert the democratic values so precious to the emergent nations of Eastern Europe.

Europe, he insisted, was the framework in which to build Britain's industries, the safeguard for civil rights and the way to give the environment the priority it required.

The new agenda of European politics was the Liberal Democrat agenda and democratic reforms — a Bill of Rights, fair votes and devolution — had to be at the centre.

The task of the party was not to support the system in Britain but to break it.

He called for an expansion of profit-related pay, an expansion of education and training, entry into the ex-

change-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System and for an independent European central bank.

Mr Ashdown said: "The insistence that Britain alone should have a bank embedded by the short-term priorities of politicians stands against the lessons of all recent experience."

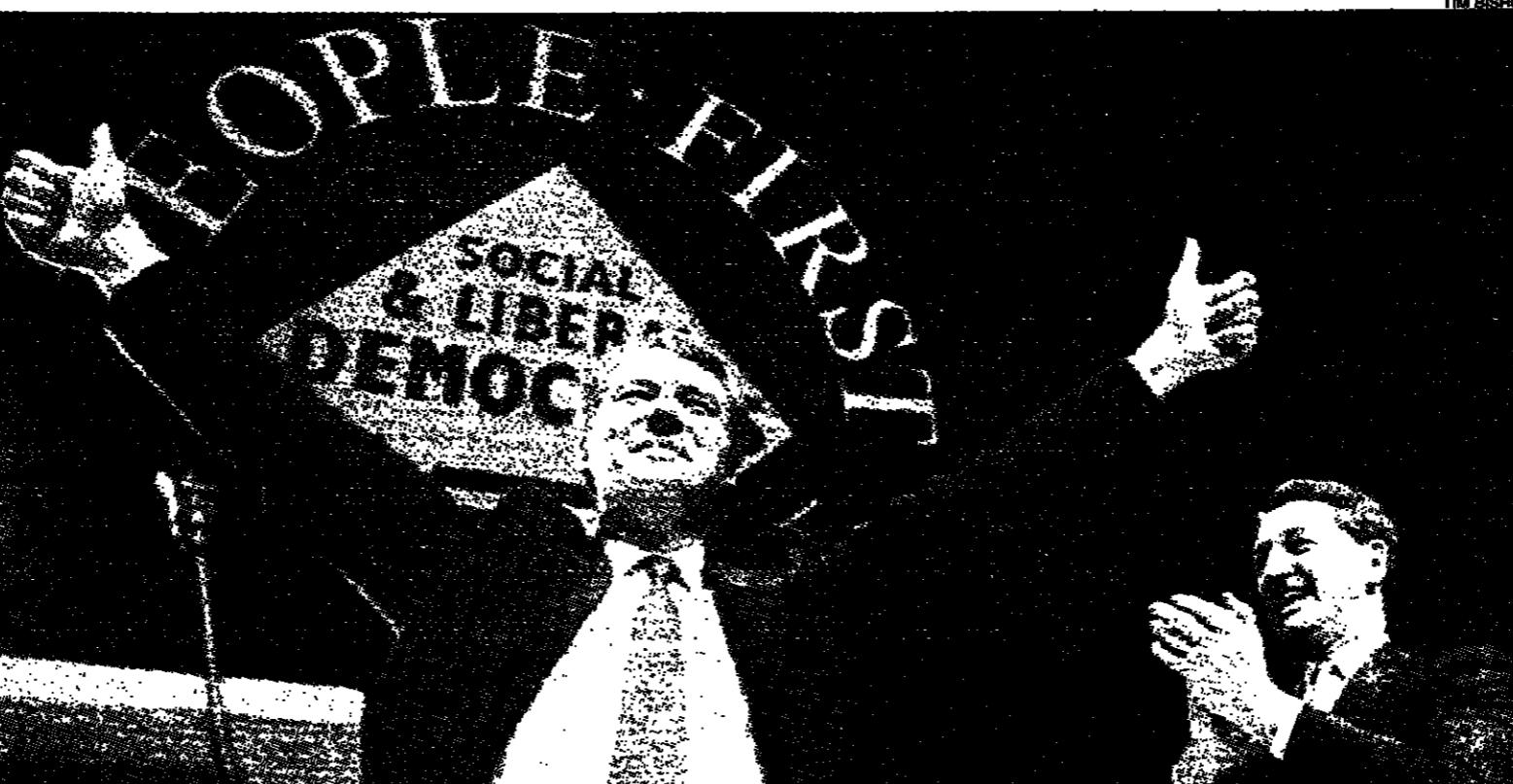
The Liberal Democrat leader claimed for his party the right to speak for the millions who could not identify with Labour or Conservative, and pointed out that a quarter of the electorate was consistently refusing to vote for either main party.

Perhaps his key claim as he urged his party, still languishing on only 7 per cent support in national opinion polls, was when he declared "ours is the party of local government".

What put the 1,200 delegates in good heart was that they see the issue of the poll tax as damaging both main parties and offering a great opportunity in this year's local government elections.

In all areas councillors said whatever national polls might say they were confident of support in the May elections.

The Liberal Democrats believe they can sell their local income tax as a realistic and comparatively simple alternative while both main parties



Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, acknowledging the standing ovation from delegates after his keynote speech in Cardiff yesterday.

## Recruiting and cash problems eased

Liberal Democrats are claiming a recovery in their membership and financial position (John Lewis writes).

Membership, which slumped by 10,000 to 80,000 after the European elections last June is now back at about 85,000.

Mr Graham Elson, the general secretary, said that renewals of membership were encouraging. Chinese supporters in Croydon South, for example, had requested another 100 membership forms after hearing Mr Paddy Ashdown's strong stand on Hong Kong.

Another campaign to recruit new members was to be launched later in the year. He said that the party had been facing a £605,000 accumulated deficit at the end of 1989, but the latest figures suggested that would be reduced to £530,000.

The party was also ahead on its target of securing a £290,000 surplus in 1990. Mr Elson said: "It is part of our plan to eliminate the deficit entirely in time for the general election, so that we can be in a position to fight the best possible campaign."

## Radical green policy to end nuclear power

By John Lewis

Liberal Democrats adopted a radical green policy, setting a target of a 30 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2005 and the phasing out of nuclear power stations by 2020 or earlier.

Delegates backed a eight-point programme on energy, despite powerful opposition from those who argued it was wrong to reject nuclear power without knowing whether it would be needed.

The other six proposals were to: use taxation, incentives and emission limits to reduce pollution; set up a department of environmental protection; aim at a 4 per cent annual reduction in the UK's energy ratio; taxation of fuel use and spending on public

showed that the risk associated with nuclear power was no different from that of other methods of generating electricity.

He was greeted with cries of disbelief when he went on to add: "There may be popular concern about the health of populations living near to nuclear power plants, but that concern has not been justified by statistical studies."

Mr Keith Smith, a scientist at the Edinburgh School of Architecture, said that to keep the lights on, factories going and to prevent hypothermia among the old, Britain might have to use nuclear generation. It was right to phase out reactors which were getting dangerous, but not to close down other stations until it was clear that they were not required.

Mrs Jenny Randerson, prospective parliamentary candidate for Cardiff Central, defended a commitment to build a Severn barrage. It would provide between 4 and 10 per cent of the nation's electricity and any damage would be local.

Mr David Heath (Somerton, Somerset) said that Lord Marshall might want a nuclear power station in his back garden, but the rest of the country did not. The nuclear industry had always been wrong in its estimates of what were needed.

Mr Keith Melton, chairman of the Green Democrats, generated his own energy at the conference by inviting delegates to applaud a number of statements about nuclear energy. Some of the loudest applause was for the statement: "nuclear power stations should be phased out".

Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP, the party's environment spokesman, said the Government's commitment to encourage a 30 per cent increase in energy demand over the next 10 years would "drive a coach and horses through Chris Patten's environment White Paper".

Mr Stewart Campbell (Edinburgh, Pentlands) criticized the policy, however, for failing to quantify the problem. How far could the demand for electricity be reduced by conservation? How much electricity could realistically be produced by renewable sources? Academic studies

transport to provide alternatives to the private car; develop renewable sources of energy, including a Severn barrage; liberalize the coal industry, ending British Coal's monopoly of pit licensing.

Mr Dickson Mabon, a former Labour energy minister, said: "We are not closing any doors on human knowledge, future discoveries or inventions."

Mr Stewart Campbell (Edinburgh, Pentlands) criticized the policy, however, for failing to quantify the problem. How far could the demand for electricity be reduced by conservation? How much electricity could realistically be produced by renewable sources? Academic studies

pay 20 per cent of the Community Charge, removal of cash limits on the Social Fund and a single Low Income Benefit.

Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, would need to increase taxation in his budget on March 20, though it would be "scandalously unfair" to do so without indexing tax allowances.

He called for higher taxes on company cars and fuel, an end to the top rate tax allowance on mortgage interest, and higher excise duties on alcohol and tobacco. Help with the costs of child care for working mothers should not be restricted to those with workplace nurseries.

He also called for an end to composite tax paid on Building Society and Bank savings.

Mr Beith and, later, Mr Paddy Ashdown called for the resignation of Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, for taking no action over the Al-Fayed brothers' acquisition of the department store Harrods.

The proposals were among those in a Green Paper entitled "Common Benefit", which was unanimously supported by the Federal Conference.

Other points include a £1 increase in child benefit and its linkage to the retail price index, the abolition of the obligation for everyone, irrespective of income, to have to

## INTEREST IN ACCOUNTS

### WITH INSTANT ACCESS FACILITIES

HAS

NEVER BEEN GREATER.

UP TO 12.75% NET  
(Minimum investment £1,000)

With Capital Choice, interest rates are no longer determined by the amount of money in your account but by how long you decide to leave it there.

For instance, three months' notice pays 11.55% net interest, six months' notice 11.85% net interest, twelve months' notice 12.25% net interest and eighteen months' notice 12.75% net interest — that's the highest rate we offer on any account.

You can also get instant access on up to 10% of your funds, without any penalty. Should you require more than this, withdrawals of larger amounts can also be made in return for the equivalent of 90 days interest on that amount.

Minimum investment is £1,000, up to a maximum investment of £500,000. For further details, drop into your local branch, but hurry as the top rate is a limited offer.

ALLIANCE + LEICESTER

YOU GET A SMARTER INVESTOR AT THE ALLIANCE & LEICESTER.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY, OAKLEY ADMINISTRATION, OAKLEY ROAD, OAKLEY, LEICESTER LE2 4PF.  
INTEREST IS PAID ANNUALLY. THE RATES QUOTED ARE NET OF BASIC RATE TAX AND ARE SUBJECT TO VARIOUS MONTHLY INCOME LEVELS. OVER £2,000 ARE 10.95% ON THREE MONTHS' NOTICE, 11.25% ON SIX MONTHS' NOTICE, 11.6% ON TWELVE MONTHS' NOTICE AND 12.05% ON EIGHTEEN MONTHS' NOTICE. PENALTY FREE INSTANT ACCESS ON UP TO 10% OF YOUR CLEARED BALANCE IS AVAILABLE ONCE PER CALENDAR YEAR. INSTANT ACCESS ON YOUR ENTIRE CLEARED BALANCE IS AVAILABLE WITH A 49 DAY LOSS OF INTEREST. WITHDRAWALS SUBJECT TO BRANCH LIMITS. RATES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY.

# Drive for linguists to boost business is attacked as wasteful

By David Tyler, Education Editor

Government schemes to encourage more language teaching in schools to help British business meet the challenge of 1992 are a waste of time and resources as industry already has sufficient linguists, an examination board official says today.

Mr Douglas Pickett, of the London Chamber of Commerce Examination Board, says companies find it cheaper and more convenient to employ foreigners than Britons with a second language.

His claims run counter to the Government's insistence that it is essential for more people to learn foreign languages if Britain is to survive in the new single European market.

The growing shortage of language teachers has led Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to consider introducing a training bursary to attract more language students into the classroom as he has done in mathematics, physics, technology and chemistry. A new

package of bursaries is expected later this year.

Mr Pickett, who speaks six languages, says: "We already have more linguists than can be absorbed into business. That is why so many of them languish in the teaching profession ... if business really needed them it could soon lure them away from unremitting work in the schools. We do our youngsters no good by pretending there is a demand for high level language skills when there isn't."

The first tests will be introduced for pupils aged seven in 1991. Mr MacGregor said that he did not believe they would be as onerous or as complicated as some teachers feared.

He said: "Without testing you cannot establish what pupils have learned and what they have not, and you cannot therefore tailor teaching to meet their needs."

Education, pages 32-33

## Guide for heads on staff sanctions

Guidelines are being issued to heads and deputies on how to handle strikes or other sanctions imposed by the teachers' unions, which have threatened industrial action in protest against the Government's imposed pay deal (Our Education Editor writes).

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said yesterday: "Our members must maintain a delicate balance as far as possible between staff, pupils, parents, governors and local education

authorities." The association recognises the right of anybody to withdraw their labour but says that it may be necessary to make it plain that it cannot support certain forms of action, for example anything which damages students taking GCSEs, A and AS levels or any other public examination.

Heads are advised to resist attempts by governors or the local authority to replace striking staff with volunteers. They are also advised to be firm with parents who insist on bringing their children to school even though they had been warned that there would be nobody to teach them.

The association also advises local authorities not to use the school to make its case to parents.

Mr Francis Foecke, who is appealing against Bristol University's decision to withhold his first-class degree because it says he had cheated in his final examinations, starts a new job today as a management trainee at a London oil company.

Mr Savile, who has an office

at the hospital, recently led a fund-raising campaign of nationwide sponsored walks, which brought in £750,000 for the Wishbone Appeal of the British Orthopaedic Association. He has run as many as 18 fund-raising marathons in a year, in spite of a spinal injury from a shot-firing blast that ended his mining career as a Bevin boy during the Second World War. At the time he was told he would never walk again.

He attributes his recovery to "mind over matter: lying down whenever the pain came on, wherever I was, ... in a street, a dance hall, anywhere."

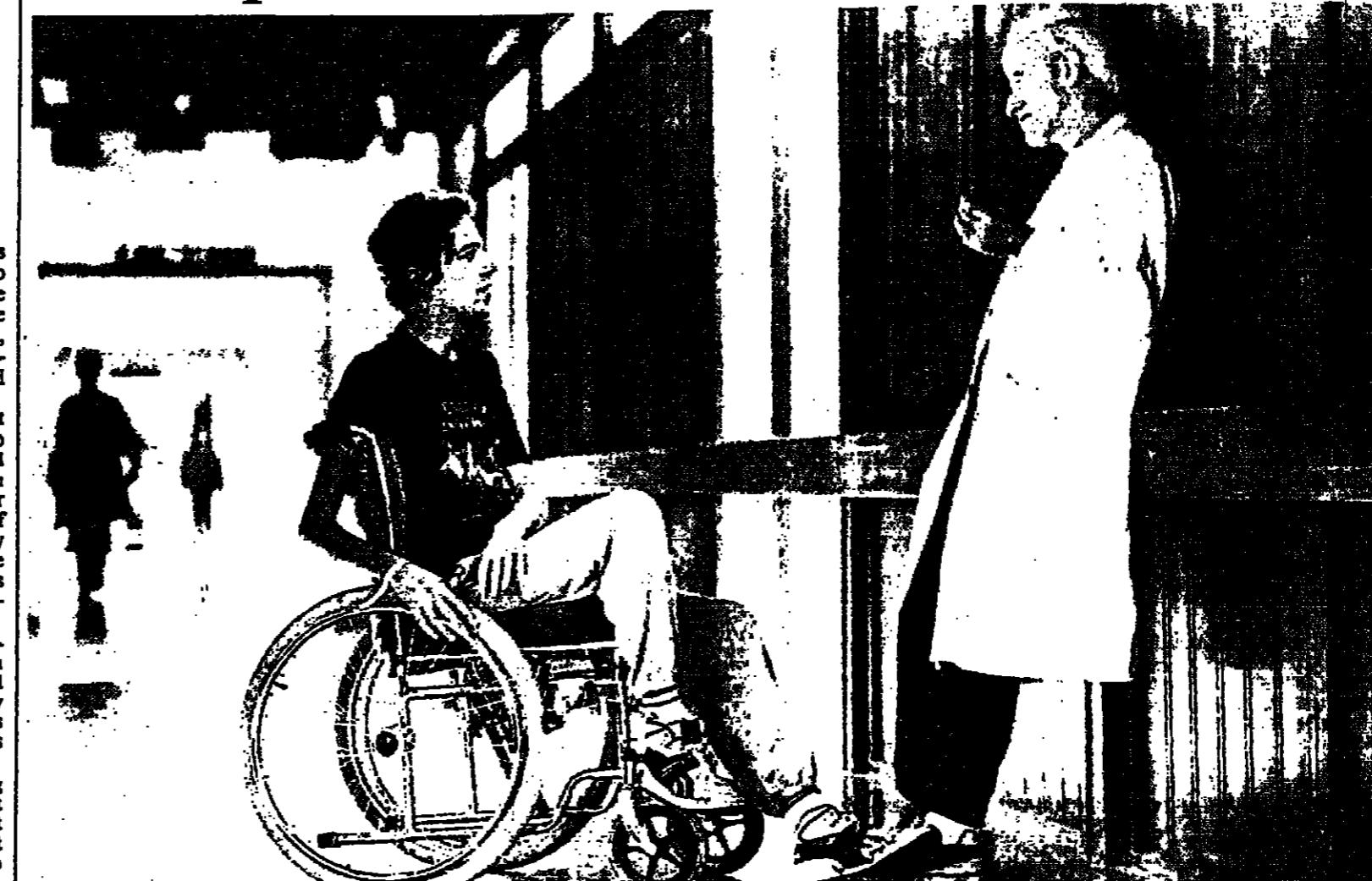
Mr Savile, the disc jockey and television presenter, with Mr Brian Dugard, a patient at the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville, for which Mr Savile has long worked as a fund-raiser.

Mr Dugard, aged 23, a design history student from Brighton Polytechnic, fell from the Berlin Wall during New Year's celebrations and broke his neck (Robin Young writes).

He has been receiving treatment at Stoke Mandeville since mid-January, after spending two weeks in a German hospital.

Mr Savile, who has an office

## Savile passes on message of hope born of pain



## 'Change of approach' in church appointments

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

The efforts of the late Dr Gareth Bennett in his famous Crockford's preface to change the Church of England were not, after all, in vain, according to the Archdeacon of York, Canon George Austin.

In a new book surveying the present state of the church, Canon Austin says several recent senior appointments indicated a change of approach.

He said: "There is a 'distinctly different flavour' about them compared with the period before Dr Bennett's preface appeared in 1987.

Canon Austin said yesterday he had in mind such appointments as the new bishops of Sodor and Man, Rochester, Blackburn and Southwell, the new Dean of St Paul's, and possibly the new Bishop of Bath and Wells. He said his own appointment as Archdeacon of York was in the same category.

Not all the new appointments were of conservative traditionalists but they were not of the type of which Dr Bennett had complained: liberal churchmen with broadcasting experience or connected with Cuddesdon or Westcott House theological colleges.

Canon Austin was a friend of Dr Bennett, who committed suicide at the height of the controversy that his preface created, and his own researches into the background of senior appointments was one of the sources Dr Bennett used in writing his preface.

Dr Bennett had concluded that preference in the church

often went to churchmen whose career paths had at some time crossed with the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who was associated with Cuddesdon and Westcott, and had many friends in religious broadcasting.

Canon Austin maintains that the previous predominance of liberal appointments had partly arisen from the mistaken perception that liberal churchmen were half way between Anglo-Catholics and evangelicals and therefore the most acceptable to both wings.

He has offered the alternative model of a triangle rather than a spectrum to illustrate the way theological opinion in the Church of England is distributed, with the liberal position occupying one of the corners rather than the middle ground.

"Whether this is just a few

crumbs or a real change

remains to be seen," Canon Austin said. "But it is no



Canon Austin: Liberal group

getting a 'second wind'.

If the liberal group won a good majority, sufficient to pass the measure allowing the ordination of women to the priesthood, the evangelical and Anglo-Catholic groups would retire into their shells.

The real problem with the General Synod was that it did not properly represent the 70 per cent of church members who were not closely attached to any one church party, liberal, Anglo-Catholic or evangelical.

The book, *Building in Love* (edited by John Greenhalgh and Elizabeth Russell), is published by St Mary's, Bourne Street, London.

Canterbury selection, page 16

### Whitehall Brief

## The capacity to tolerate strong-minded managers

The ambulance dispute is still formally unresolved. The proposal by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, to introduce competition into a service whose ethos is co-operation has yet to bite.

The management of the National Health Service has to cope meanwhile with the latest batch of partisan appointments to district health authority chairmanships. It is an inauspicious time to take on a job entitled NHS director of personnel.

But you could say Mr Eric Caines, the man who will be named to that appointment, is well equipped, his two most recent jobs having been operational commands in the prison service and in social security, neither field free of either political or administrative headaches.

Yet Mr Caines's move is surprising, and may say something not entirely flattering about Whitehall's capacity to tolerate both strong-minded individuals and people with the kind of managerial flair which the Next Steps initiative for dividing the Civil Service up into semi-autonomous executive agencies is supposed to be about.

What Mr Caines has been doing for the past 18 months is preparing for what on paper was going to be the biggest sign of the Government's seriousness about reforming the way Whitehall manages such essential public services as the provision of income support to the poor, the registration of companies, the issuing of driving licences and the processing of the unemployed.

When, three weeks ago,

the Department of Social Security advertised for a new chief executive of its Benefits Agency, due to be inaugurated in April 1991, Mr Caines looked a front runner for the position.

He is, by all accounts, a rare bird in Whitehall, someone who can reach down the administrative machine and stimulate the army of clerical and executive workers.

With a great deal of

emphasis on improving service to the public, Mr Caines has been up and down the social security network, cajoling and informing, doing what the management jargon calls "cultural change" — trying to make people who have done a job in a certain way for ages change their attitude.

So did he apply? Mr Caines is graded a deputy secretary, the rank behind permanent secretary.

Departmental insiders say

there was lively discussion, a

while back, about grading

the benefits job as an under

secretary's post. At that

point, the conspiracy theorists take over.

Mr Caines's wife, Karen,

was one of authors of the

Next Steps report, accepted

by the Prime Minister in

February 1988, after being

submitted to her by Sir

Robin Ibbs, the efficiency

adviser. For him to be

denied a leading role in the

Social Security Benefits

Agency looks, to some

people, like a sharp rebuff to

those (among them the

Prime Minister's watchdog

or the progress of Next

Steps, Mr Peter Kemp) who

want energetic chief execu-

tives running the show. It

looks like a victory for the

permanent secretaries' club.

Is the benefits agency job being reserved for somebody who will be compliant, who will not threaten the position of those at the top of the Civil Service tree? If so, it augurs badly for the success of the Next Steps programme.

Did Mr Partridge face the prospect of having not much of a job to do if a powerful figure took over the running of the benefits agency and act to protect his interests? Watch this space for news of whether that figure turns out to be a lot less threatening than Mr Caines would have been.

David Walker

## MUSIC TO AN INVESTOR'S EAR.

Abbey National's Sterling Asset investment account is made for appreciation. It offers you not only an excellent interest rate, but one that increases as you add to your investment.

In addition to a highly rewarding interest rate, we give you the opportunity to earn a bonus of extra interest. All you have to do is make no withdrawals for a year.

We can pay your interest annually or, should you prefer a regular income, we can give you details about our monthly income option and rates.

You can make withdrawals at any time. To avoid losing any interest just give us 90 days notice or leave £10,000 in your account after withdrawal. This of course means you will not earn the bonus. Withdrawals can be made without notice. You will however lose both your bonus and the equivalent of 90 days interest on the amount withdrawn.

If you would like an investment account that hits the high notes, ask your local Abbey National branch for details of the Sterling Asset investment account.

Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL



Abbey National

# BE HONEST.

## WOULD YOU HAVE PUT YOUR MONEY IN IT FIVE YEARS AGO?

Ah, the wisdom of hindsight.

Had you been shrewd enough to get into Body Shop when they went public, you'd be sitting pretty today.

We should know, because Body Shop was included in the portfolio for our original Stewardship ethical unit trust.

Was it luck or foresight?

Neither. It so happens the principles behind Body Shop reflect our own.

Namely, to give you the chance to invest your money without sacrificing your conscience.

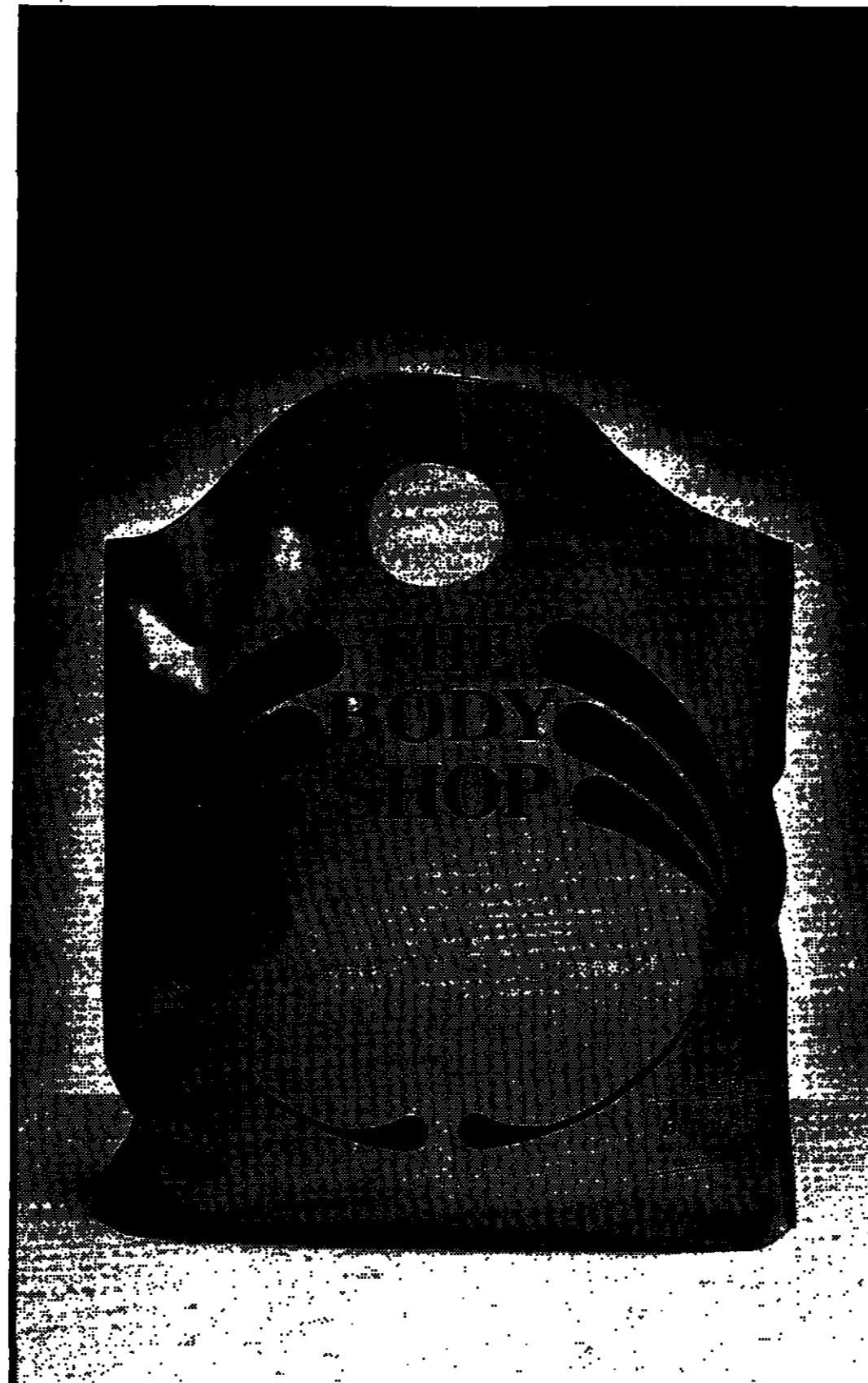
Had you invested £1000 in our original Stewardship unit trust on March 1st 1985, it would have been worth £2141 five years later.\*

Of course, we should point out the price of units – and therefore the value of your investment – can go down as well as up.

And past performance isn't necessarily a guarantee of future results.

But how do we go about selecting companies to invest in for Stewardship?

Well, we don't simply jump on the nearest green bandwagon.



First, we seek out companies demonstrating a commitment to ethical principles.

And, for the sake of our investors, they must be capable of producing excellent results.

We also believe in steering clear of companies involved in arms manufacture, oppressive regimes or animal testing.

Ditto, companies whose profits come from gambling or the manufacture of alcohol and tobacco.

We'd also point out that Stewardship isn't just another 'green' unit trust but a whole way of planning your financial future.

You can have your mortgage, pension or life insurance all linked to Stewardship investments.

Or, for a minimum outlay of £1000, you can choose to invest in one of our three Stewardship ethical unit trusts.

Then again, you may prefer the tax-saving advantages of our new Stewardship PEP.†

You can even start a regular savings plan based on Stewardship for as little as £30 a month.

We can't guarantee to put you into a Body Shop every day of the week.

But we can promise to put your money where your principles are.

For details about investing in Stewardship, talk to your financial adviser or return the coupon below to Friends Provident Life Office, FREEPOST (NW4 599) London NW9 7PQ. Or call us free on 0800 300 399 anytime.

\*Source: Micropal/calculated on an offer to bid basis, with net income reinvested.

†Please note that tax legislation may be subject to change in the future.

STEWARDSHIP · ETHICAL · INVESTMENTS

Yes, please send me full details of The Stewardship ethical investments. I am over 18. There is absolutely no obligation and no salesman will call. Not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland or to US Nationals.

Name: (Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.)

Address:

Postcode:

TS 81

**FRIENDS PROVIDENT**  
WE'VE GROWN BIG BY BEING RECOMMENDED.  
EST 1832

Friends Provident is the business name of the Friends Provident Marketing Group. Friends' Provident Life Office and Friends' Provident Unit Trust Managers Limited are members of that Group and of Lutro and IMRO. Friends' Provident Unit Trust Managers Limited is also a member of the Unit Trust Association.

# Israeli Government teeters as Labour ministers walk out

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Israel's coalition Government faces almost certain collapse today over proposed Middle East peace talks, with Labour finally concluding that the gap between its policy on the Palestinian issue and that of Likud, the dominant coalition partner, cannot be bridged.

The right wing of Likud has campaigned with growing success against US terms for the historic talks on the grounds that they would lead to direct dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization and place Israeli control over the whole of Jerusalem in doubt.

Last night last-ditch efforts were under way to avert the break-up of the coalition formed by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, 15 months ago. But yesterday Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, led a walkout of Labour ministers from a crucial Cabinet session following Mr Shamir's refusal to put US terms for an unprecedented dialogue with the Palestinians in Caïre to the test.

Diplomatic manoeuvring over the past year, involving the US, Egypt and Israel, has come within an ace of setting up the first talks between Israel and a Palestinian delegation in the 42 years of the Jewish state's existence. But after yesterday's refusal by Mr Shamir to take a decision, Mr Peres declared: "This is the end of the agreement which is the basis for continuing the national unity government."

The Labour Central Committee convenes today to decide whether to carry out its ultimatum — already postponed once — to withdraw from the coalition.

If Labour does withdraw, it is likely to call a vote of no confidence in Mr Shamir in the Knesset (Parliament) tomorrow. This could lead to the formation of a new coalition, with the religious parties — the "third force" in Israeli politics — holding the balance of power and deciding

## Agents accused

Jerusalem (AP) — The District Court here has indicted two Shin Bet security service agents on manslaughter charges in the death of a prisoner, Khaled Kamel Al Sheikh Ali, last December. The Justice Ministry said they questioned him and "... dealt blows to Sheikh Ali, and as a result Sheikh Ali suffered internal bleeding that led to his death".

the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the proposed talks on elections in the occupied territories. Last week Mr Baker warned Mr Shamir by telephone that both time and US patience were running out.

Palestinian hardliners, who — like Likud right-wingers, for different reasons — have opposed compromise all along, yesterday welcomed the failure to reach agreement. Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist organization, which is especially powerful in the Gaza Strip, called for a jihad or Muslim holy war against Israel.

The issue which has finally brought the coalition to the edge of collapse is Mr Baker's proposal that the Palestinian delegation should include not only Arabs deported from the

whether to support a Labour or Likud government.

But observers believe it

more likely that the crisis will

lead to new elections. The last

elections in November, 1988,

gave Likud a slight edge but

not enough to govern alone.

With violent unrest mount-

ing in east Jerusalem and

the occupied territories, Palesti-

nian moderates were dismayed

yesterday by the apparent

breakdown of Labour-Likud

negotiations.

After weeks of bargaining,

threats and counter-threats

the coalition talks had nar-

rowed down to US demands,

presented by Mr James Baker,

the US Secretary of State, over

the spectre of eventual talks

with the PLO, which both

Labour and Likud regard as

terrorist, but had also aroused

deep fears that Israeli sov-

ereignty over united Jera-

usalem would be placed in

jeopardy.

Labour denies that includ-

ing east Jerusalem Arabs in

either the negotiating team or

the subsequent elections

would reopen the question of

Jerusalem.

On the eve of yesterday's

Cabinet meeting Mr Yitzhak

Rabin, the Defence Minister,

who is a key Labour figure,

suggested a compromise

under which Israel would

accept the Baker plan but

leave the issue of east Jera-

usalem Arabs for the Knesset to

decide. But Mr Shamir refused

to put this to the vote.

In riots apparently sparked

off by Mr Bush's remarks on

the status of east Jerusalem,

two Palestinians were killed at

the weekend during clashes

with troops in Shuafat refugee

camp, in east Jerusalem.

# SAS-style teams in Istanbul siege



Special anti-terrorist teams discussing tactics yesterday before storming an Istanbul flat where three hostages had been held for 17 hours. All escaped safely and their armed captor was wounded in the six-minute operation (Rasit Gardieli writes). The action brought to an end a drama in which one police officer was killed, and two policemen and two other suspected terrorists injured.

The special teams were flown in from Ankara. They stormed the 11th-floor flat after the hostages — two carpenters and a grocer's apprentice — escaped through a kitchen window with the help of the

police, officials said. The members of the special unit wore black masks and carried up-to-date weapons, ropes and hooks associated with the SAS. The seriously injured suspect was rushed to a hospital where six bullets were removed from his body, sources said.

The episode started on Saturday when police, hunting for the killers of a journalist, spotted a car that had been commandeered the day before. The three occupants, when challenged, were said to have opened fire, killing one police officer and injuring two others. The three were followed to the vicinity of a mental

hospital, where two suspects — one a Kurdish woman — were wounded and captured. The third ran into a residential area near by and barricaded himself in the flat together with the hostages. At the end of their ordeal, the hostages told reporters that the suspect, already wounded in the shoulder, had treated them well. They said they escaped one by one with police help after the exhausted gunman became drowsy in the morning.

The captured man said he belonged to the Armed Unit of People, an unknown offshoot of the underground Turkish Revolutionary Communist Party.

# Election pledge by Haiti general

By Alan Tomlinson

Lieutenant-General Prosper Avril has caved in to nationwide protests and resigned as President of Haiti and commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

He was immediately succeeded by Major-General Herard Abraham, the Army's acting chief of staff, who promised to turn the country over to a provisional civilian government within 72 hours.

General Abraham now heads the fifth government since President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier fled the country four years ago. The provisional Government's goal, he said in a televised statement on Saturday, would be to organize general elections.

There was no announcement about the composition of the interim administration, but it is expected to include a provisional President chosen from the Supreme Court and a 10-member Council of State selected from organizations representing various sectors of Haitian society and its eight rural provinces.

Diplomatic sources expect elections to be called within three to six months.

The announcement of General Avril's resignation was greeted by spontaneous celebrations throughout the capital, Port-au-Prince. But there were violent incidents and six bodies were found in a house in a city suburb.

A big concern after General Avril's resignation was the possible reaction of the 1,300-man presidential guard, but informed sources said it was their understanding understood that the guardsmen would be disbanded and assigned to other army units.

General Avril is expected to go into exile within a few days.

• Washington — A US State Department spokesman said the Bush Administration "would be prepared to help the provisional government to conduct free and fair elections under international observation at the earliest possible date".

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Pledge by Thais on death railway

Sydney (AFP) — Mr Chatichai Choonhavan, the Thai Prime Minister, has assured Australians he will block an attempt to turn the Burma death railway into a tourist attraction. Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, said yesterday. Mr Hawke said that his Government had approached Mr Chatichai after outrage was expressed in Australia over proposals to use actors to play Japanese soldiers and allied prisoners on the line.

About 100,000 prisoners of war, including Australians, Britons, and other nationalities died during the construction of the Thailand-to-Burma line during the occupation by the Japanese in the Second World War. Mr Hawke said in a television interview that Mr Chatichai had sent him a message saying that he would never allow the desecration of the memory of the Australians who died.

### Namibia joins 'family'

Namibia will join the Commonwealth on March 21, when it achieves independence from South Africa, it was announced yesterday (Andrew McEwan writes). The last colony in Africa will become the 50th member of an organization which the Queen today describes as a family. In her annual Commonwealth Day message she says: "We greet each other as members of the biggest and most unusual family on earth." Its comparative lack of rules, its human richness and geographical diversity made it as hard to define as it was easy to criticize, she said. Observers feel the organization has been under strain since 1985 because of differences over sanctions against South Africa. Namibia, a former German colony, has been administered by South Africa since 1915.

### Mandela told to rest

Dar es Salaam (AFP) — Mr Nelson Mandela, aged 71, winding up a six-day tour of Tanzania, was ordered by a doctor yesterday to rest. The Deputy President of the African National Congress was visibly flagging when he addressed a rally on Saturday at Morogoro, 120 miles west of here. He spoke for less than three minutes to a crowd which had waited more than five hours to see him, and later his remaining engagement at an ANC college just out of town was cancelled on the order of a doctor. On Friday night, he told a crowd who turned out to see him in Iringa, 250 miles south-west of here that he had defied doctor's orders by coming out in the rain. He said he had a bad cough.

Leading article, page 15

## The conflict in Afghanistan

### Kabul mutiny splits rebels

From Zahid Hussain, Peshawar

The abortive coup against President Najibullah of Afghanistan has left Pakistan's Afghan policy in a complete shambles and the Mujahidin more divided than ever.

The moderate Mujahidin leaders in Peshawar have accused Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, the intelligence wing of the Army, of orchestrating and bungling the coup attempt.

Except for the extreme Islamic fundamentalist group, Hezbi-i Islami, led by Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, all the moderate Mujahidin groups refused to support the military uprising by the Khalq faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, despite intense pressure from Pakistani officials. They acted as a revolt of hardline communists against Dr Najibullah.

"We cannot be a party to the infighting between the two communist groups," said Professor Sabiullah Muaddi, president of the Mujahidin's Afghan interim government.

Professor Muaddi said that the coup leader, General Shahmawaz Tanai, the former Afghan Defence Minister,

represented extremist groups of the ruling PDPA and if successful would have created more problems for the Afghan people.

According to the Mujahidin sources, the leaders of the six-party coalition Afghan interim government were summoned by Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, on Tuesday night after the coup attempt. She asked them to support the military uprising in Kabul, but the Mujahidin in refused.

Pakistani officials later ascribed the Mujahidin's failure



Dr Najibullah, delivering a speech in Kabul yesterday.

to move quickly in support of the coup as the main cause for its defeat. The March 6 coup attempt failed within 24 hours. General Tanai and his fellow rebel generals have now taken refuge in Pakistan and President Najibullah is firmly back in the saddle.

Western diplomats and

observers here believe that the latest events may lead to fresh alignments and permutations of political forces. There are also indications that Pakistani influence over different Peshawar-based Mujahidin groups may diminish further.

According to an American diplomat, the Mujahidin field commanders and Peshawar-based Mujahidin groups might now be tempted to forge their own alliances with different factions of the PDPA. "This will lead to further chaos and make the chances for a peaceful political settlement of the Afghan crisis much more difficult," the diplomat said.

The most interesting aspect of the abortive coup was the unusual alliance of the extreme left-wing Khalq of the PDPA and the extreme-right Islamic fundamentalists of Hezbi-i Islami.

some point the public and press are going to ask, "Who is this guy?" said an exasperated Mr Kent Hance, a career politician and Texas Railroad Commissioner. He has done his bit to enlighten them. He paid a Republican Party operative \$5,000 to investigate Mr Williams and found he drank and brawled.

Mr Williams was thrilled by the revelations. Yes, he liked a few beers, and yes, he had once slugged a sacked employee who was harassing his staff. "I decked him and if he'd got up I'd have worked him some more," Mr Williams ratings jumped still further.

Somewhere Mr Hance's own image-makers have slipped up. He is widely perceived as an opportunist, a finger-in-the-wind politician who will do or say anything to win. A former Democrat congressman who switched parties, he entered the race after Mr George Bush Jr, the President's Texas-based son, decided not to stand. Mr Hance has lost his last two statewide elections. Opponents now call him "Last Chance Hance".

Mr Tom Luce, a moderate, urban Dallas lawyer, is the third serious Republican candidate in the March 13 primaries. He is the candidate of the Republican establishment and has plenty of wealthy supporters.

Texas love it. His Republican opponents emphatically do not. "At

### Florence police chief gives blacks marching orders

From Richard Bassett, Rome

The centre of Florence has been declared virtually off-limits to black immigrants from today by Signor Vittorio Parisi, the city's police chief.

In a statement issued yesterday after a weekend of racist attacks by groups of Florentine skinheads on African immigrant traders, the police chief said he would use laws against them, drug trafficking and prostitution to clear the traders from the area.

The violence has charged the city, which is the cradle of Renaissance culture, with an almost medieval air of menace. Along the Arno, groups of Africans walk warily, avoiding parks and dark corners.

More than 200 extra police detectives were drafted into the city yesterday to assist the local carabinieri, who have dealt with a score of incidents involving groups of between 20 and 30 skinheads, some affiliated to an organization calling itself The Front for the Defence of Italian Rights. The groups have attacked African traders with fists and sticks.

The traders have become a familiar sight near most tourist attractions in the city. At the weekend Signor Parisi left journalists in no doubt that he

few more days to find a different solution.

But the police chief's decision was welcomed by many Florentines who have openly applauded the racist attacks and have criticized the Mayor for being "too soft".

Until yesterday Signor Moresi had hoped to be able to find three sites near the city centre where the immigrants could sell their goods, which range from plastic African souvenirs to fake Louis Vuitton luggage. This solution has now been forestalled.

According to Signor Parisi, more than 50 per cent of petty crime in Florence is caused by the extracomunitari, as the immigrants are called here. He was indifferent to claims by the Africans' representative that they were not involved with drugs and prostitution.

Some Italians point out that their trade is encouraged actively by the Mafia. The African immigrants often receive only board and lodging from the suppliers of the goods they sell. Any profits that they make are passed on to criminal groups

Two faces of Iraq revealed by reports of human rights abuses

# Liberal screen fails to hide ruthless Saddam

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

The fate of Farzad Bazoft, the Iranian-born reporter of *The Observer*, who was sentenced to death on Saturday for spying in Iraq, has focused attention on one of the Arab world's most ruthless leaders, President Saddam Hussein, who according to Middle East legal experts is the only person with the power to commute the sentence.

The Iraqi leader, known to his many enemies as "the Butcher of Baghdad", has been striving to improve his tarnished international image by pledging political reforms, including a new constitution, and moving to loosen central control over Iraq's debt-ridden economy.

The President has been branded an "Arab Ceausescu" and his despotic regime, with its strong dynastic content, frequently compared with that toppled in Bucharest last December.

These accusations are bitterly resented in Baghdad, where strict restrictions on the Western press (most correspondents, like Bazoft, have first to be invited to enter) are designed to minimize on-the-spot reporting of the many allegations of serious breaches of human rights.

As the British Foreign Office commented tartly when describing the draconian sentences imposed on Bazoft,

aged 31, and his friend, Mrs Daphne Parish, a British nurse condemned to spend 15 years behind bars in a country not renowned for the enlightenment of its penal policies: "They come ill from a regime which is trying to show a more liberal face to the world."

The two faces of Iraq have been shown up by a damning series of reports on its violations of elementary human freedoms. These are in contrast to President Saddam's declaration to Arab legislators that forthcoming political reforms will allow the country of 17 million more press freedom and the formation of political parties.

Even on Saturday, as the sentences were being handed down after a 5½-hour trial



President Saddam: Trying to repair a tarnished image.

lobby groups to try to pressure Congress and to place favourable comments in the news media.

Although it claimed that the British public was better informed about the true human rights situation in Iraq, it noted that British export credits for manufactured goods were greater than those of any Western nation, totalling an estimated £2.5 billion between 1984 and 1988.

Iraq's badly dented image was hit again a week after the report's publication when Mr Armando Valladares, the US Ambassador, told the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva that Iraq was among six countries using torture and committing other grave human rights violations.

Mr Nizar Hamdoun, Under Secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, again pledged that a draft constitution would be ratified soon "to guarantee basic freedoms for human beings and pave the way before licensing (opposition) parties".

President Saddam has pursued a personality cult of Stalinist proportions which is maintained by giant portraits of himself around the country. Although he is vain and ruthless, he is widely regarded as uncorrupt and remains popular, particularly in the armed forces.



Family vigil: Miss Michelle de Vries, daughter of Mrs Daphne Parish, who was sentenced on Saturday to 15 years' imprisonment for spying, outside the Iraqi Embassy in London.

Lebanese urged to keep their hostages

Cairo — Mr Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a prominent Iranian radical, has urged Lebanese kidnappers to keep their Western hostages claiming that freeing them now would "unleash the blood-drinking wolves" (Christopher Walker writes).

The former Interior Minister, who was instrumental in forming Hezbollah (the Party of God), the group mainly responsible for the kidnappings, alleged in an editorial in the Tehran newspaper *Kayhan* that Mr Terry Waite, abducted in 1987, was spying for the West in Lebanon.

## Beirut blast

Beirut (Reuters) — About 20 people were hurt when a booby-trapped car exploded near a Syrian military base in west Beirut yesterday, and at least one civilian died in battles between rival Christian groups.

## Islanders vote

Moroni (AFP) — As voting began in the second round run-off presidential election in the Indian Ocean Comoros Islands, Mr Mohamed Taki, an opposition candidate, complained of irregularities.

## Plotters 'alive'

Jakarta (AFP) — Six prisoners, reported to be on their way to the firing squad for their part in a 1985 coup attempt, were still alive yesterday, Indonesian military and human rights sources said.

## Rights inquiry

Mogadishu (Reuters) — Somalia's new government has invited US Congressmen, human rights groups and journalists to investigate claims of rights abuses.

## Prison pledge

Khartoum (AFP) — All political prisoners in Sudan — except those charged with corruption — are to be released, Mr Ali Mohammed Shuma, the Interior Minister, said.

## Pisa hope

Pisa (AFP) — The Leaning Tower of Pisa — closed on January 7 for safety reasons — could be re-opened in three years — if red tape does not slow restoration work.

## France besieged over EC agencies

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

European Community finance ministers will put strong pressure on France today to back down in its threat to hold up the establishment of four European agencies until Strasbourg is made the permanent site for the European Parliament's meetings.

The four bodies include the European Environment Agency, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Eastern Europe, the EC Trademark Office and the European Training Foundation, another body set up to help Eastern Europe.

All EC members agree on the urgency of the new agencies beginning work, especially the bank, and the

ministers will call today for a swift start to its operations.

Today Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will launch his bid for London as the bank's headquarters, saying the City is unrivalled in banking expertise.

But the prospects of an early decision on its siting have been worsened by France's threat of blackmail over Strasbourg.

France's stand has angered its EC partners and many MEPs. Last week the largest faction in the European Parliament, the 180-strong Socialist group, voted overwhelmingly to end the monthly trek to Strasbourg, which they said was costing taxpayers £40

million a year.

The group is seeking a vote this week on renting a chamber and office building in Brussels. A suitable assembly chamber has been built beside the Parliament's Brussels headquarters.

President Mitterrand, stepping up his campaign to keep the Parliament in Strasbourg, announced last week that a new 750-seat chamber would be built in Strasbourg, to accommodate any extra MEPs joining after German reunification and if other European states became EC members.

France has found an ally in Luxembourg, which is also afraid of losing its profitable

## Pilots allowed to smoke amid fear of 'cold turkey' landings

From Charles Bremner, New York

Fears that jittery, nicotine-deprived pilots could rush to land their airliners and light up have led the US authorities to exempt flight crews from a new law that bans smoking on virtually all domestic routes.

The Federal Aviation Administration decided to allow captains, co-pilots and flight engineers to carry on smoking after a study warned that a smoking pilot going "cold turkey" could suffer withdrawal symptoms that could lead him to endanger his aircraft.

The new law, which came into effect this month, prohibits smoking on all flights of less than six hours.

Dr Andrew Horne, an official of the FAA, said a 1987 study showed that "the effects of withdrawal in a habitual smoker are associated with a decline in vigilance, in concentration and with increased irritability."

Smokers' lobby groups immediately attacked the pilot's exemption as illogical and unjust. But Mr Dave Breton of the Smokers' Rights Alliance said: "If a cigarette is helpful to the pilot and co-pilot in a stressful situation, let them have it. I

just wish people were as sympathetic with airline passengers who find flying stressful."

Dr Horne, however, disagreed. "There is a lot of difference. A smoker in the back of the plane is not instrumental to the safety of the flight and the pilot certainly is," he said.

Meanwhile the FAA said it was cracking down on flight crews who drank alcohol within eight hours of take-off. The move follows the arrest last Thursday of all three members of the flight crew of a Northwest Airlines Boeing.

**SIEMENS**

## Siemens helps Pirelli to keep a grip on production.

Staying at the forefront of the tyre industry means making a firm commitment to factory automation — as Pirelli has demonstrated by installing a Siemens Simatic® process control system at its Carlisle plant.

The system controls tyre production at every stage — from weighing, mixing and cutting rubber compounds

to forming tread, finishing and checking quality. The result is less waste and increased productivity. The whole process is now more efficient, ensuring that Pirelli stays on the right road to success.

If you would like to know how Siemens can help you get a firmer

grip on production, call 0260 278311.



Innovation · Technology · Quality · Siemens

# Challenges grow to Gorbachov presidency

From Mary Dejevsky  
Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's plan to institute the new post of Executive President was yesterday facing outright opposition from several non-Slav republics whose governments fear a threat to their growing autonomy.

Two separate parliamentary groups also expressed misgivings about the new post, and one nominated the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, and the Interior Minister, Mr Vladimir Bakatin, to stand as alternative candidates against Mr Gorbachov.

The legislation establishing the presidency is due to be discussed at an emergency meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies today. It would give the President the power to suspend the Constitution and rule by decree anywhere in the Soviet Union. Delegations from at

least four – and possibly six – of the country's 15 republics have said they will boycott discussion of the presidency at the Congress, which is the only body empowered to make the necessary constitutional changes.

Among them, the Baltic republic of Lithuania, whose newly elected parliament has decided to seek secession from the Soviet Union, is not sending a delegation to the Congress at all. Estonia is sending a delegation, but has instructed it not to take part in the debate on the presidency, and Latvia was expected to take a similar decision.

On Saturday an emergency meeting of the supreme soviet in the republic of Georgia instructed its delegates to go to the Congress but not to participate in the debate. Deputies from the Trans-Caucasian republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan were believed to be considering their position. All have

powerful nationalist or popular front groups which are committed to enhancing their republics' independence, if not actual secession.

A boycott of the proceedings, even by as many as six republics, would not prevent the legislation going through, because the draft law states only that a majority of those present has to approve the measure. It would, however, jeopardize the constitutional effectiveness of the post, because those republics which do not take part are unlikely to recognize the authority of the new President on their territory.

One of the main intentions of the new post – to provide a strong centralizing influence – could thus be thwarted.

Even without the dissenting republics, however, the law on the presidency will encounter vociferous – if poorly co-ordinated – opposition when discussions begin

today. A weekend meeting of the reformist Inter-Regional Group of parliamentary deputies in Moscow spent almost 11 hours in acrimonious debate, trying to formulate a coherent stance on the presidency.

Some used the now familiar argument that the depth of the present crisis called for the President to have stronger powers and said the Group should vote for the measure. Others wanted a decision to be delegated in the first instance to the newly elected parliaments in the republics and argued for abstention.

Yet others disapproved of the whole idea, warning of dictatorship, and called for a "No" vote. They accused spokesmen for the other two views of weakening the Soviet Union should be held together at all costs, also agreed to support the idea of the presidency, but decided to nominate alternative candidates to preserve the democratic principle. The original

preferred candidate was Mr Ryzhkov, although one participant mentioned Mr Yevgeny Ligachov's name in passing. However, fearing that Mr Ryzhkov would cede the post to Mr Gorbachov without a vote, it was decided to nominate Mr Bakatin as well.

Soyuz, which claims some 120 members of the total of 2,250 Congress of People's Deputies, approved the new presidency, it reserved the right to nominate a new chairman for the Supreme Soviet (the present parliamentary post held by Mr Gorbachov).

Another parliamentary group – Soyuz, or Union – which unites an uneasy combination of economic reformers and political conservatives around the principle that the Soviet Union should be held together at all costs, also agreed to support the idea of the presidency, but decided to nominate alternative candidates to preserve the democratic principle. The original

## Deposed leader accuses Krenz

From Anne McElroy  
East Berlin

Herr Eric Honecker, East Germany's former leader, yesterday broke his five-month silence on the developments in the country and accused his successor, Herr Egon Krenz, of driving it into the arms of West Germany.

He also said that he holds Herr Krenz personally responsible for the collapse of national morale and the decline of the communist party.

In a three-page hand-written letter to the Danish Communist Party, published today in its newspaper *Land and People*, Herr Honecker, who is to be tried for treason, corruption and abuse of office, accused Herr Krenz of having "lamed, discredited and finally destroyed" the communist party.

The letter is Herr Honecker's first public comment on the situation in East Germany since he was ousted from office by Herr Krenz in October, and was written as a reply to an offer by the Danish Communist Party to give him sanctuary.

In it he claimed that Herr Krenz showed "no regard for socialist democracy" when he was responsible for state security and the armed forces in the former Politburo. It also accuses him of having developed a secret defence policy which was never presented to the party congress for its approval.

Herr Honecker declined the offer of help from Denmark, saying that he was awaiting trial and forbidden to leave East Germany. He was rumoured to have been preparing to go to Denmark before he was charged earlier this year.

Herr Honecker is currently living in the home of a vicar in a charitable community outside East Berlin and is expected to stand trial in the coming weeks.

Herr Krenz yesterday told *The Times* that he was "completely astounded" by Herr Honecker's outburst. "I cannot believe that he really means it," he said. "I cannot imagine what this is supposed to achieve."

Relations between the former colleagues have cooled since Herr Krenz claimed that he hindered an order by Herr Honecker to fire on demonstrators in Leipzig in October, and there has been no contact between the two men since.

In a private conversation in November, Herr Honecker told Herr Krenz that the reform programme he had introduced "would end in tears".

Man in the News: Vitautas Landsbergis

## Century-old family links to Lithuanian national rebirth

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

The name of Landsbergis has been associated with two periods of "national rebirth" in Lithuania. The family of Dr Vitautas Landsbergis, elected yesterday as President of the republic's supreme soviet, is of Swedish origin, but became part of the emerging Lithuanian bourgeoisie in the 19th century.

His father was a distinguished Lithuanian playwright and journalist, exiled to Siberia for resistance to the rule of the Tsars.

As such, he played a leading role in re-creating a Lithuanian literary language, in opposition not only to the Russians but also to the Poles. Polish culture had come to dominate Lithuania in the centuries after the two states formed a union in the Middle Ages, and the Lithuanian language for a long time declined almost to the status of a group of peasant dialects.

Since the Lithuanian nobility had become almost completely polonized, the leading part in this "national rebirth" was played by bourgeois intellectual families like the Landsbergis.

Dr Landsbergis's father is a distinguished architect and was an officer in the independence struggle against Russians, Germans and Poles after 1918. He also played a part in trying to regain Lithuanian independence under German and Soviet rule in the 1940s and was jailed by the new Soviet regime.

He is still alive, and yesterday sent a message of congratulation to the supreme

soviet. The deputy who read it, referring to his patriotic services, called him "the patriarch of national rebirth".

Dr Landsbergis himself could be called a patriarch. He is 58 years old – he was born in 1932 – and is a grandfather.

By profession he is a musicologist and teacher at the Vilnius Conservatoire.

As such, he won a prize for his work on the Lithuanian composer and painter, Mikalojus Ciurlionis. In all this,

there are striking similarities with the background of the Czechoslovak playwright and now President Vaclav Havel.

There are striking similarities with the background of the Czechoslovak playwright and now President Vaclav Havel. ■

He described how on one occasion in Moscow Dr Landsbergis found himself confronting the Soviet Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov. The General began the interview by storming and blustering, but Dr Landsbergis stuck quietly to his position and in the end, according to his colleague, General Yazov had to give way and argue on Dr Landsbergis's terms.

"Vitautas has lots of patience. He has demonstrated this many times, and we will probably need it", his colleague said.

Mr Landsbergis has, of course, also achieved his present position through his

own gift as a politician and diplomat. He became leader of Sajudis in preference to other candidates above all through his ability to settle differences and personality clashes in this extremely broad political umbrella group.

Quiet diplomacy seems the essence of Dr Landsbergis's personality. In appearance he is extremely unassuming, and when set against his erstwhile main rival, the Communist Party leader and President, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the comparison suggests that between a mole and a bull.

Dr Landsbergis's mole-like qualities are only accentuated when he wears his favourite brown corduroy jacket. He has a round figure with stooped shoulders and the face of a 19th-century professor with receding hair and a small beard. One of his colleagues, however, warned me not to let his appearance mislead me as to his qualities of determination.

He described how on one occasion in Moscow Dr Landsbergis found himself confronting the Soviet Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov. The General began the interview by storming and blustering, but Dr Landsbergis stuck quietly to his position and in the end, according to his colleague, General Yazov had to give way and argue on Dr Landsbergis's terms.

"Vitautas has lots of patience. He has demonstrated this many times, and we will probably need it", his colleague said.

Mr Landsbergis has, of course, also achieved his present position through his

own gift as a politician and diplomat. He became leader of Sajudis in preference to other candidates above all through his ability to settle differences and personality clashes in this extremely broad political umbrella group.

Quiet diplomacy seems the essence of Dr Landsbergis's personality. In appearance he is extremely unassuming, and when set against his erstwhile main rival, the Communist Party leader and President, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the comparison suggests that between a mole and a bull.

Dr Landsbergis's mole-like qualities are only accentuated when he wears his favourite brown corduroy jacket. He has a round figure with stooped shoulders and the face of a 19th-century professor with receding hair and a small beard. One of his colleagues, however, warned me not to let his appearance mislead me as to his qualities of determination.

He described how on one occasion in Moscow Dr Landsbergis found himself confronting the Soviet Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov. The General began the interview by storming and blustering, but Dr Landsbergis stuck quietly to his position and in the end, according to his colleague, General Yazov had to give way and argue on Dr Landsbergis's terms.

"Vitautas has lots of patience. He has demonstrated this many times, and we will probably need it", his colleague said.

Mr Landsbergis has, of course, also achieved his present position through his

own gift as a politician and diplomat. He became leader of Sajudis in preference to other candidates above all through his ability to settle differences and personality clashes in this extremely broad political umbrella group.

Quiet diplomacy seems the essence of Dr Landsbergis's personality. In appearance he is extremely unassuming, and when set against his erstwhile main rival, the Communist Party leader and President, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the comparison suggests that between a mole and a bull.

Dr Landsbergis's mole-like qualities are only accentuated when he wears his favourite brown corduroy jacket. He has a round figure with stooped shoulders and the face of a 19th-century professor with receding hair and a small beard. One of his colleagues, however, warned me not to let his appearance mislead me as to his qualities of determination.

He described how on one occasion in Moscow Dr Landsbergis found himself confronting the Soviet Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov. The General began the interview by storming and blustering, but Dr Landsbergis stuck quietly to his position and in the end, according to his colleague, General Yazov had to give way and argue on Dr Landsbergis's terms.

"Vitautas has lots of patience. He has demonstrated this many times, and we will probably need it", his colleague said.

Mr Landsbergis has, of course, also achieved his present position through his

own gift as a politician and diplomat. He became leader of Sajudis in preference to other candidates above all through his ability to settle differences and personality clashes in this extremely broad political umbrella group.

Quiet diplomacy seems the essence of Dr Landsbergis's personality. In appearance he is extremely unassuming, and when set against his erstwhile main rival, the Communist Party leader and President, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the comparison suggests that between a mole and a bull.

Dr Landsbergis's mole-like qualities are only accentuated when he wears his favourite brown corduroy jacket. He has a round figure with stooped shoulders and the face of a 19th-century professor with receding hair and a small beard. One of his colleagues, however, warned me not to let his appearance mislead me as to his qualities of determination.

He described how on one occasion in Moscow Dr Landsbergis found himself confronting the Soviet Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov. The General began the interview by storming and blustering, but Dr Landsbergis stuck quietly to his position and in the end, according to his colleague, General Yazov had to give way and argue on Dr Landsbergis's terms.

"Vitautas has lots of patience. He has demonstrated this many times, and we will probably need it", his colleague said.

Mr Landsbergis has, of course, also achieved his present position through his

own gift as a politician and diplomat. He became leader of Sajudis in preference to other candidates above all through his ability to settle differences and personality clashes in this extremely broad political umbrella group.

Quiet diplomacy seems the essence of Dr Landsbergis's personality. In appearance he is extremely unassuming, and when set against his erstwhile main rival, the Communist Party leader and President, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the comparison suggests that between a mole and a bull.

Dr Landsbergis's mole-like qualities are only accentuated when he wears his favourite brown corduroy jacket. He has a round figure with stooped shoulders and the face of a 19th-century professor with receding hair and a small beard. One of his colleagues, however, warned me not to let his appearance mislead me as to his qualities of determination.

He described how on one occasion in Moscow Dr Landsbergis found himself confronting the Soviet Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov. The General began the interview by storming and blustering, but Dr Landsbergis stuck quietly to his position and in the end, according to his colleague, General Yazov had to give way and argue on Dr Landsbergis's terms.

"Vitautas has lots of patience. He has demonstrated this many times, and we will probably need it", his colleague said.

Mr Landsbergis has, of course, also achieved his present position through his

## Getting ready for a big fall



High flyer: Herr Gregor Gysi, leader of East Germany's Party of Democratic Socialism, jokes as he prepares for his first parachute jump at Friedersdorf during the election campaign.

## Romanians denounce leaders

From A Correspondent  
Bucharest

Anti-government protesters demanding the removal of all communist and secret police influence in Romania demonstrated in Bucharest and two provincial cities yesterday.

Demonstrators massed in the Opera Square in Timisoara – where the Romanian revolution began on December 16 – and in the centre of the Moldavian capital of Iasi as the opposition Peasant Party claimed that two provincial party chiefs had been brutally murdered by "Securitate terrorists" in a political witch-hunt masterminded, they said, by the National Salvation Front.

Mr Valentin Gabrielescu said that a party leader aged 60 had been hacked to within an inch of his life and had his tongue cut out by two axe-wielding assailants in the village of Rosiori near the southern town of Calarasi. He died at home an hour later.

Mr Gabrielescu said the politician's wife and two daughters have been threatened with rape if they revealed even his name to the authorities. Romanian police said they had no record of the incident.

The horrific case is a carbon copy of last month's murder, near the northern town of Bacau, when another Peasant Party leader, Mr Vasile Vulpe, was hacked to death by axe-men who removed his tongue.

Meanwhile, about 15,000 people gathered in Timisoara to denounce the Romanian leader, Mr Ion Iliescu, and other rulers.

Colonel Constantin Greco,

one of the leaders of the rally, made a demand for more information about the role of the Army in repressing demonstrations in December, which triggered the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu's communist regime.

From Richard Bassett, Rome



Signor Occhetto: A tearful embrace for his opponent.

## Socialists would cut back German refugee benefits

From Ian Murray, Bonn

The opposition Social Democrats will do away with virtually all the benefits given to East German refugees if they win the general election in December.

Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the party's likely candidate for the post of Chancellor, won backing for this idea at the weekend during a working session to prepare for the election campaign.

He added that the entire Hungarian-Soviet friendship accord must be renegotiated because it was based on the concept of "proletarian internationalism".

He added that the entire Hungarian-Soviet friendship accord must be renegotiated because it was based on the concept of "proletarian internationalism".

He added that the entire Hungarian-Soviet friendship accord must be renegotiated because it was based on the concept of "proletarian internationalism".

He added that the entire Hungarian-Soviet friendship accord must be renegotiated because it was based on the concept of "proletarian internationalism".

He added that the entire Hungarian-Soviet friendship accord must be renegotiated because it was based on the concept of "proletarian internationalism".

He added that the entire Hungarian-Soviet friendship accord must be renegotiated because it was based on the concept of "proletarian internationalism".

He added that the entire Hungarian-Soviet friendship accord must be renegotiated because it was based on the concept of "proletarian internationalism".

He added that the entire Hungarian-Soviet friendship accord must be renegotiated because it was based on

## SPECTRUM

# Making money and serving God



Many businessmen and industrialists have declared their frustration with the attitude of Church leaders to wealth creation. Peter Morgan, director of the Institute of Directors, echoed this resentment when he said recently that the Church regarded business and industry as "mucky and squalid".

*The Times* and the Comino Foundation, which promotes British industry, are sponsoring a seminar in London on Thursday at which leading industrialists and churchmen will grapple with these issues. Is hostility to wealth creation part of the Christian Gospel, or a historical development reflecting cultural values? Is there a positive Christian ethic of wealth creation, and what does it have to say to the modern man of business? Or does he simply have to choose between God and Mammon?

The three keynote papers for the seminar, by authorities on these topics, are being published in advance, starting today with DAVID EDWARDS, who traces the history of Christian mistrust of industry.

No religious song is more popular among English people who think that Christians are allowed to be comfortably off than William Blake's *Jerusalem*. But even there, the apparent incompatibility between Christianity and wealth creation intrudes itself; for the "dark Satanic mills" are contrasted by the poet with "England's green & pleasant Land".

Fortunately it is not my task to attempt an exposition of Blake's own thought. But I do respond to an invitation to probe a little into the connection, or lack of connection, between religion and wealth in English Christian thought. Churchgoers are well aware of the austere spirit of these 40 days seems to be in accord with the practice of those of my fellow-clergy who throughout the year tend to use, soon after the word "wealth" (or its equivalents), the words "materialism", "selfishness" and "greed".

I am one of those Christians who are uneasy about the assumption that wealth creation is grubby if not downright immoral. That attitude may imply some scorn for the activities on which most people spend most of their time. Whenever value is added to goods and services, wealth is created — and the taxman is there to remind us. And wealth is created by activities too primitive to be within the net of VAT — making children and growing crops. I cannot believe, in Lent or at any other time, that we are all meant to avoid all activities which may make us richer.

Of course, my fellow clergy who denounce the affluent society as "Thatcherism and all that" do not want to write off the whole world of work and wealth. But they often do give the impression that they think that this world does not need to be affirmed; that their job to stress instead "spirituality" and "social justice", either together or as alternative priorities. There is rightful concern and indignation about unemployment as being contrary to "social justice" — but less concern about the importance of employment as a source of wealth creation.



## 'Religion became an escape from industrial ugliness'

God and therefore breeds spiritual wealth. It is, however, taken for granted throughout the Bible that the Lord's challenge has been renewed, as exceptional men and women have felt called to poverty, chastity and obedience if they work so well that they have a surplus to share with the poor, as when the Good Samaritan took out his wallet.

For Adam, work in the garden was natural and divinely commanded; as early as Genesis the Bible takes in a city, castle, lye and pipe, bronze and iron; and the divine blessing on good work is expressed by the gift of prosperity, abundance even, to the unfortunate Job.

The parables of Jesus, for most of his adult life a carpenter, draw their material from the world of work and deserve to be studied in order to see how little they were censorious towards that world.

Generation after generation,

Christians in Europe have built up the material basis of our civilization: Byzantium, Venice, Florence, Bruges, Amsterdam . . . Why, then, among Christians in modern England has the balance to be found in the Bible and the Church's tradition been tilted so much away from any blessing on wealth creation? The movement of opinion has not been exclusively English; but in England the imbalance has been specially noticeable for special reasons.

The balance was there in the best teachers, such as John Wesley and Cardinal Newman. While great Anglican bishops such as Latimer, Andrews, Laud and Taylor were far from neglecting either spirituality or social justice, the whole Anglican ethos sanctified "my station and its duties" in the humdrum lay world, as may be seen from a glance at the

Catechism in the Prayer Book. And the balance has been preserved in the lives of millions of Christians, of all the Churches, who have built our Jerusalem with stones and physical or mental sweat.

But as England became the world's first industrial nation, two features of the revolution appealed many Christians. One was the brutal ugliness of the factories and factory towns, in contrast with the countryside. Hence the romantic protest of Constable, Wordsworth, the pre-Raphaelites, Ruskin, Chesterton; hence, at a more normal intellectual level, the aristocratic fantasies of Brideshead or the rural nostalgia of suburbia.

Religion became an escape. When the Churches boomed in Victorian England, their hymns sang of all things bright and beautiful, not of all things

'Often English Christians forgot that their whole society, with all its hopes of progress, rested on the trade they despised'

porary, and their Gothic appearance indicated that they belonged to the old Christendom and perhaps to a medieval forest.

Another factor, more potent still, was the untaxed wealth of the capitalist or landowner in contrast with the unsupported urban squalor of life for the masses whose ancestors had been peasants. Hence the conviction of many "Christian Socialists", from Maurice Manning, Gore, Temple and Tawney through the Nonconformist Conscience downwards, that the Churches must take advantage of the popularity they had acquired (in their medieval forest perhaps) by playing, or at least encouraging, the role of Robin Hood.

One of the most influential counter-attacks after the arrival of the Satanic mill owners was made in the schools and colleges which educated the traditional governing class and newcomers willing to be absorbed into its value.

Privileged young Englishmen were not encouraged to add to their privileges by adding to the nation's industrial or commercial wealth. They were urged to maintain the essentially rural lifestyle of the "gentleman", and to earn their privileges by helping and guiding the poor. Beyond that, their eyes were directed to that quarter of the globe which came to be coloured red in Westminster, or at 10,000 points in Westminster's world-covering tenacles, the products of England's top schools and colleges (then firmly Christian) were to pursue a mission which was civilizing, the creation not of wealth but of justice. What was needed was the administration of others, not any technical skill; so Latin was more useful than science.

"Trade" was in the background, but "trade" was too vulgar to be put in the centre. Thomas Arnold was a prophet of the main Christian response to industrialization when, almost exactly on the days when terms in Rugby School began and ended, he sped to, and reluctantly from, his real home in the Lake District, where he drank deep from the wisdom of Ancient Israel, Greece and Rome. Arnold's son, Matthew, urged England to catch up with the Continent by providing popular, including technical, education, and to some extent that was done after 1870, but it was only in the 1970s that the governing class really began to acknowledge that it and the people must both be trained for "trade".

These values, in their way very noble, strengthened the conclusion that it was far more interesting and ethical to hand out money than to make it. When it became apparent that by taxation and bureaucracy the modern state

could distribute wealth massively, every distribution away from the people who had profited in the modern market was hailed as social justice.

Because the cake had grown so much larger than anything which had been known in all the previous centuries, it was assumed that the cake would keep on growing. The fascinating question was how to slice it up, and from the 1930s to the present day a pile of reports from Church committees, conferences and synods has answered that question. There has been comparatively little discussion of how to bake the cake.

English Christianity has not yet officially moved much beyond the age of Atlee. At the end of the Second World War the country made the morally correct and politically irreversible decision to establish social security through the welfare state. Very few voices were raised to say that, with a new industrial revolution now accelerating and the empire going, the modernization of this island's industry in a European setting ought to be given higher or equal priority. In the Churches such voices would have been hushed down.

Inevitably English Christians have been touched in heart and mind by wider tendencies, but it is not fair to suggest that they have merely followed fashion. They have had their special reasons to love and defend nature, to be indignant at the extremes of wealth and poverty, to turn to the empire as a less sordid sphere, to believe that man does not live by bread alone, not even by sliced bread. But they got their attitude to work, which creates material wealth, out of balance. Often they forgot that their whole society, with all its hopes of material progress and greater equality — and with the new size of the population — now rested on the despised "trade". They forgot that God himself needs Mammon if his children are to be fed.

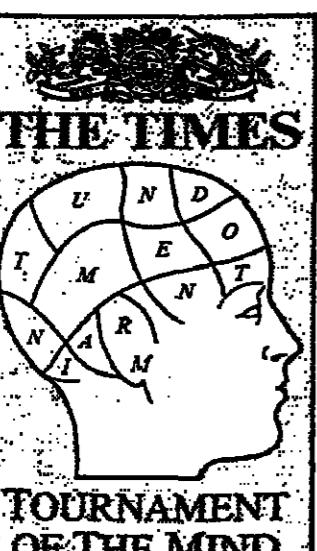
Now that industry need not be ugly, and now that competition in the European market has replaced the administration of the empire, can English Christianity produce a more realistic chapter in the history of its social thought? The balance must be restored to the social teaching of the English Churches.

The Very Revd David Edwards is Provost of Southwark and a member of the General Synod of the Church of England.

## TOMORROW

Lord Caldecote on the predicament of the industrialist

## Tournament of the Mind



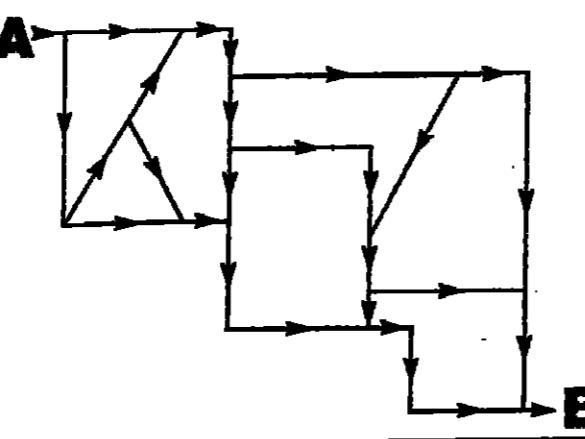
• The Times Tournament of the Mind enters its second week with Round Six today offering questions to test your word power, logic, numeracy, and general knowledge against the skills of thousands of other readers from across the globe.

• Played over 20 rounds, the Tournament offers the chance to win £5,000 or, for the top school, a Hewlett Packard computer. Every entrant will receive a special certificate.

• Only the Collins English Dictionary (second edition) and the Encyclopaedia Britannica (15th edition) are used. Answers gained from other sources will not be accepted. No written correspondence will be entered into and no telephone queries will be accepted.

## 1. DIAGRAMS

In this diagram, you must follow the direction indicated by the arrows. How many different permitted routes are there of getting from A to B?



## 2. VERBAL

Replace the blanks in this sentence, so that it makes sense, with two different seven-letter words which use the same letters in their construction?

THE BEST PLACE TO BLANK THE SOUP IS IN THE BLANK

**LOGIC**

DARTMOUTH 390  
SCARBOROUGH ?

183 RHYL  
345 MORECAMBE

Using the logic from the information on this signpost, what distance replaces the question mark? (Clue: each letter is allocated a logical value and these are then added together).

**MATHS**

A generous philanthropist visits a village which has a total population of 1,444. He gives every fourth male £16 and every eighth female £32. How much money did he give in total?

## MISCELLANY

Which of the five great lakes of North America lies wholly within the United States?

**ROUND 6 - ANSWERS**

CUT OUT THIS COUPON AND KEEP YOUR ANSWERS UNTIL ROUND 20. ANSWERS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY ON COUPONS PUBLISHED IN *THE TIMES*

**PUZZLES**

Answer 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Answer 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Answer 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Answer 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**MISCELLANY**

Answer 1. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME. \_\_\_\_\_

## John Stalker recommends Nationwide Security Blinds

Former Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester

### INTRUDERS LOCKED OUTSIDE

Nationwide Blinds keep out Burglars. Automatically locking when fully shut.

### WARM, SAFE & QUIET INSIDE

The insulated slat formation, manufactured from toughened aluminium, locks heat in, cold out, cutting your heating bills and giving you security and peace of mind.

**24 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT\***

(after initial minimum 10% deposit)

\*Flexible payment plans also available

- Simple pull inside rolls down shutter outside.
- Premier range available with electric operation and remote control.
- Shade from the sun ensuring coolness in Summer.
- Every installation is tailor-made in our factory and fitted by our own craftsmen.
- Choice of colours available.



"Tough, resilient and durable, Nationwide's roll down shutters truly give security and peace of mind."

**ACTION LINE**  
(0929) 554901  
24 HOUR ANSWERPHONE

Send to: Nationwide Security Blinds, FREEPOST, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4BR.  
Please send me a free colour brochure  
Please arrange for a no obligation survey  
Name. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address. \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO STAMP REQUIRED

**NATIONWIDE SECURITY BLINDS**

\*0% APR. \*Written details on request

TG/3

# TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

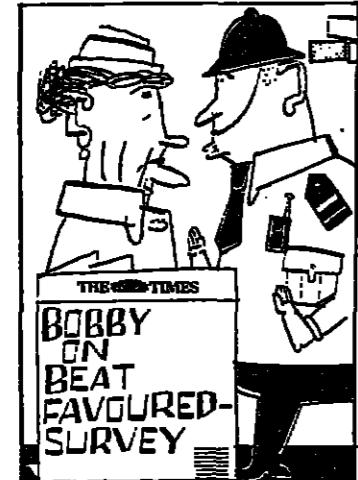
**M**ore trouble is likely at the Barbican today when the Royal Shakespeare Company's new ruling triumvirate, Genista McIntosh, Adrian Noble, and Michael Attenborough, come face-to-face for the first time with their landlady, Della O'Cathain, who is not pleased with their decision to withdraw from both stages for four months next winter. She is reported to be even less pleased with a clause in the lease which says the RSC can veto any other production intended as a filler for either the main stage or the Pit during its absence, thereby forestalling the possibility of a rival company having a hit there. It would perhaps be even more than usually tactless of me to suggest that, given the successes in the National's current repertoire, the Barbican would provide an ideal NT overflow house until things improve for the RSC.

**I**f someone told you that Central Television was now operating from a flat above McDonald's, you could be forgiven for assuming that the McDonald's in question was somewhere in the Midlands, and that the company had fallen on hard times. The flat is in fact above the recently opened McDonald's in Moscow's Pushkin Square where Central is putting together a deal with Goskino, the Soviet cinema organization, a glossy Moscow magazine called *Ogonyok*, and the Contemporary Opera company. Together, they will provide facilities for other Western TV crews wishing to film in the Soviet Union and supply the Russians with feature films from this side of what used to be the Iron Curtain.

I wish Central better luck than that experienced by the late Hollywood director George Cukor, who 15 years ago, found himself in Leningrad with Elizabeth Taylor and Ava Gardner on a doomed attempt to make the first US/Soviet co-production – a musical of *The Bluebird*. It was an honour, said Cukor on arrival, to be filming in the very studio where Eisenstein had made his classic *Battleship Potemkin* in 1925. "Yes," beamed their proud host, "and with the very same equipment."

**A**s I reported here some weeks back, the Trevor Nunn production of *Othello* starring Willard White and Ian McKellen, which ran for ludicrously limited seasons at Stratford and the Young Vic, has now been filmed by Prime Time, the company which brought Nunn's *Nicholas Nickleby* to the screen. It goes out on BBC-TV in May. If you can't wait that long, £17 in aid of the Home Farm Trust charity will buy you a ticket to a sneak preview next Monday night at Bafta in Piccadilly.

BARRY FANTONI



'Nice chatting but I must fly – there's someone breaking into your house'

**A**part from the Oscar Wilde case, few trials of the last century have given quite so much to stage and screen as the Leopold/Loeb affair of 1920s Chicago, in which two wealthy students kidnapped and murdered a young boy for kicks. Because of the homosexual overtones, not to mention other legal difficulties, Patrick Hamilton first fictionalized the case as a play called *Rope*, which had long runs in the West End and on Broadway before being filmed by Alfred Hitchcock. Eleven years later Darryl Zanuck remade it as *Compulsion*, with Orson Welles as lawyer Clarence Darrow giving a defence speech which, at 15 minutes, was thought to be the longest ever filmed. Next week the story returns to the West End stage – the Playhouse – as *Never the Sinner*, with Joss Ackland as Darrow. If all goes well, we shall doubtless then get the film of the play of the film of the play of the case.

**O**ne of the most reassuring clauses in the rule-book of Auberon Waugh's Academy Club is that relating to prison: whereas most communities regard incarceration, like bankruptcy, as grounds for immediate expulsion, presumably for fear that the unfortunate member may find prison food more acceptable, Waugh's sanctuary imposes no such hardship. Members who have the misfortune to be sent down will not be expected to resign, nor to pay subscriptions while behind bars; indeed, the unused part of the annual sub can be held over for use after release. I trust the Garrick and Buck's swiftly follow suit.

I experienced no joy when they announced that Westminster's poll tax was to be £195; I felt ashamed. It meant that a brace of elderly Friends rattling around the upper floors of one of Lord Howard de Walden's houses in Wimpole Street would be better off by £800 per annum. It must be within the bounds of an administration to ensure that folk like us, living in comfort in the area of our choice, at best make a fair contribution to local expenditure, certainly do not benefit at the expense of the less wealthy.

I now feel slightly better, for it seems that £195 is only for openers; feed-corn to enable Westminster City Council to embark upon a campaign of aggressive Thatcherism.

This horizontal column has already reported the zeal of cleansing officers who are encouraged to dedicate their week-

**B**russels As the West cheers on Eastern Europe's march of democracy, the calls for greater democracy in the European Community grow ever louder. In a bold challenge this week, the European Parliament in Strasbourg will demand a share of power that would transform the Brussels decision-making structure and lay the basis for a federal Europe more accountable to its voters.

A report drawn up by David Martin, a Scottish Labour MEP, demands powers of co-decision with the Council of Ministers. It aims to extend the Parliament's powers, which at present are limited to legislation on the single market. The report wants the Parliament to have the power to block, instead of merely delay, Commission proposals, forcing ministers to sit down and negotiate with MEPs. It wants to be able to initiate legislation, which is now the prerogative of the Commission. And it wants much wider powers to sack individual commissioners, to ratify treaties, to conduct parliamentary inquiries, and to draw up a draft constitution for full European union.

The Strasbourg demands, which are likely to command overwhelming support among

## Michael Binyon on MEP moves for greater Euro democracy

# Strasbourg's power play

MEPs, follow the urging for institutional reform of the Community from European leaders, national parliaments and individual politicians such as Michael Heseltine and Jacques Delors, president of the Commission. With the prospect of East Germany joining the EC, closer ties with the six European Free Trade Association members, and the prospect of all Eastern Europe knocking at the door, the Community is rapidly outgrowing the cosy structure designed for a club of six.

Despite Britain's opposition and the present disruption of Eastern Europe, the momentum towards deeper political integration appears unstoppable. The Twelves must soon make their preliminary preparations for an inter-governmental conference on economic and monetary union to be held at the end of this year. Influential voices are suggesting that this conference should be used to discuss a new EC constitution. There are

warnings that unless the structure is streamlined, decision-making will seize up, national parliaments' resentment will sharpen as powers slip from their hands, public alarm at the "democratic deficit" will grow, and the Community will not be accountable to its voters.

A report drawn up by David Martin, a Scottish Labour MEP, demands powers of co-decision with the Council of Ministers. It aims to extend the Parliament's powers, which at present are limited to legislation on the single market. The report wants the Parliament to have the power to block, instead of merely delay, Commission proposals, forcing ministers to sit down and negotiate with MEPs. It wants to be able to initiate legislation, which is now the prerogative of the Commission. And it wants much wider powers to sack individual commissioners, to ratify treaties, to conduct parliamentary inquiries, and to draw up a draft constitution for full European union.

The Strasbourg demands, which are likely to command overwhelming support among

MEPs from national parliaments to link Euro legislation more closely to national debate. They should also be more involved in foreign policy, which now comes under an independent secretariat.

Earlier this year, he spoke vaguely of a permanent body of deputy prime ministers drawn from each member state to strengthen the Council of Ministers. Now he wants to speed up its decision-making by broadening the range of directives that can be passed by majority vote. These should include not only single-market measures, as laid down by the Single European Act, but also those dealing with social affairs, the environment and even, perhaps, tax.

The Delors plan has little to say about the European Parliament. But other politicians have had plenty to say. Mr Heseltine has several times called for a second chamber – a European Senate – composed of

MPs from national parliaments and insist on having a say in institutional reform. After that it wants consultations to tell each national parliament what is proposed and to ensure they do not feel slighted. Some parliaments, such as the Italian, will be enthusiastic; Westminster may be more sceptical.

The Martin report wants the European Parliament to be the main forum to discuss a new constitution for the EC. It offers a blueprint for a federal Europe based on the principles of subsidiarity, leaving to member states those tasks best performed at national level – efficiency and democracy. It admits that one country – obviously Britain – will have none of this. But it insists that "no single state can block the will of the majority to achieve European Union". Fine sentiments that will ensure the enthusiastic adoption of the report this week.

The Parliament has seen that it now has an opportunity to bid for long-frustrated power. Mr Martin's report calls for a substantial role for Strasbourg in the inter-governmental conference. It therefore wants a "pre-conference conference" in May or June with the Commission and the Council of Ministers so that it can prepare a

## Ensuring posterity with prosperity

Chris Patten,  
Environment  
Secretary, thinks  
economic growth  
can continue if  
we all learn to  
act responsibly

**O**ne central ethical principle underlies our concern for the environment. It is stewardship. We do not have freeholders' rights to the land we live in, allowing us to do whatever we want with it. We are trustees, obliged to pass on what we inherited from the last generation to the next.

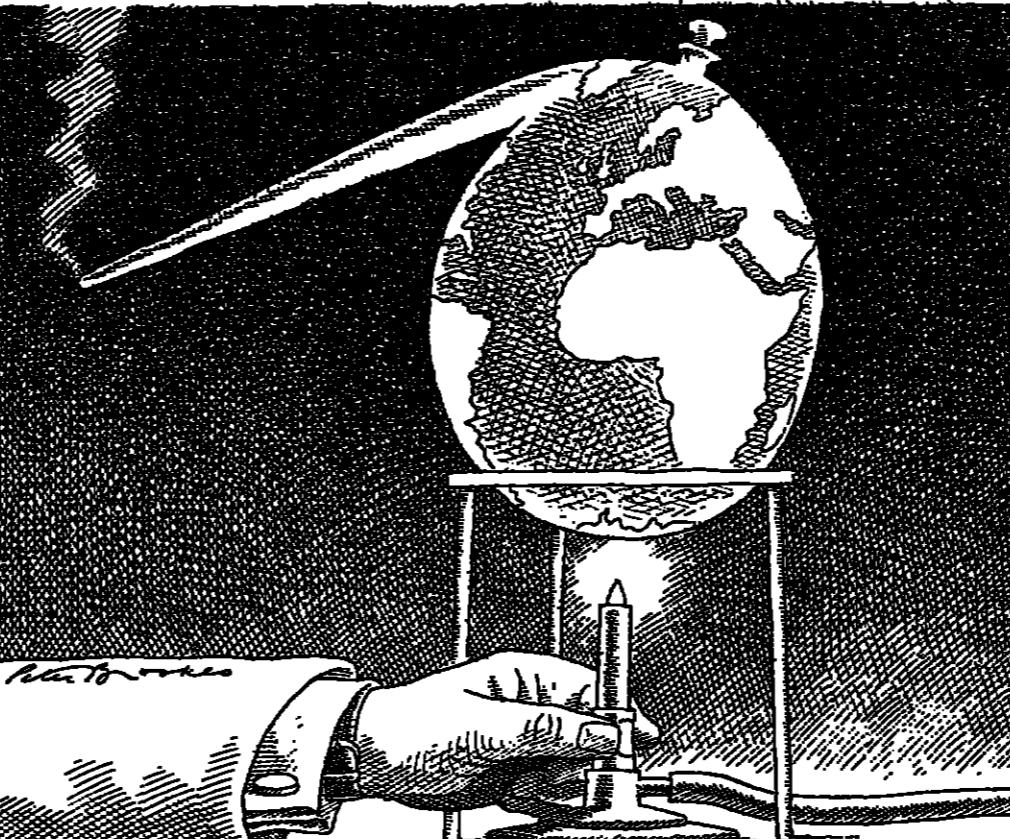
In Britain particularly, the feeling that we have some special responsibility for civilizing the effects of the industrial revolution is almost as old as the industrial revolution itself. We all remember William Blake's reference to "dark, satanic mills" – and the fact that he was referring to churches cannot detract from the industrial power of the metaphor. Later, in the 19th century, came Wordsworth with his powerful affirmations against the background of the industrial age, of regard for nature as the real touchstone of the human spirit.

Dickens gives us the pulse of that industrial age:

The earth was made for Dombey and Son to trade in, and the sun and moon were made to give him light. Rivers and seas were formed to float their ships; rainbows gave them promise of fair weather; winds blew for or against their enterprises; stars and planets circled in their orbits to preserve inviolate a system of which they were the centre... AD had no concern with anno Domini, but stood for anno Dombey – and son.

What Dickens describes here shows why the world was in need of protection from man's industrial excesses. The way he describes it shows insight and humanity of the kind that produced the Alkali Act of 1863, the first great legislative monument of environmental stewardship.

But today many people who feel a genuine ethical concern for stewardship allow the heart to take them too far in certain directions. The kind of attitudes I mean tend to imply some or all of three loosely-connected propositions. They imply that the world can sustain its growing population at a tolerable standard of living only if the developed world drops the idea of economic growth and accepts a decline in living standards towards those of the less-developed world. They imply that the world's natural state is the only truly "right" state for it, and that human activities should not be allowed to have any effects on nature which can possibly be



avoided. And they imply that any environmental risk is unacceptable and must be avoided.

The idea of zero or negative growth is a counsel of despair which we must reject. Poverty is perhaps the greatest pollutant of all, as we can see, not only in the magnitude of the ecological disasters which, as is becoming clear in the new era of *glasnost*, have accompanied economic stagnation in parts of Eastern Europe. Neither economic activity nor industry is wicked in itself. They create the wealth and the goods necessary for feeding, clothing, transporting, warming, lighting, curing and educating us.

Part of the ethical challenge of

stewardship is for governments to create conditions which will allow our children, and their children, to live materially as well as or better than ourselves.

The other part of this ethical challenge is how to do this without fouling the global nest and growing at the expense of our poorer neighbours. Part of the key is sound science. But sound economics are just as important. We have to develop our economies in ways that are sustainable, ways that conserve natural resources. Instead we are depleting our renewable resources, notably the tropical forests, more quickly than they can recover.

For the developed countries, this means methods of agriculture which do not impoverish the land, industrial processes which minimize waste and pollution and maximize recycling, and pioneering more efficient ways of using energy. For the developing world it means the same plus avoiding the mistakes made by the first world during industrialization. And the first world must ensure that developing countries benefit from our environmental ex-

pertise on fair and affordable terms.

I turn to the second of the three propositions – the belief that the natural order is sacrosanct – with a quotation from Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission: "The natural world can no longer bear unbridled pillaging... this is the first lesson we must learn: to respect nature for itself and not simply as a means for satisfying our needs. Nature has a logic of its own which may differ from ours."

No one would deny that there is sound sense in this. But the thrust of M Delors' comments, and of those who take the same thought to much more radical extremes – "leave things alone unless absolutely necessary" – is, I believe, wrong.

**T**he statesman and scholar Francis Bacon is sometimes quoted by the man in the let-'em-alone school: "It is not possible to direct nature, except by obeying it". Quite true. But he is not saying leave things alone. He is giving an early definition of sustainable development.

Bacon's purpose was to establish a new system of natural philosophy on what are now regarded as modern principles.

The Aristotelian scheme against which he was reacting had held sway for 2,000 years, based broadly on the proposition that the secrets of nature could be established purely by intellect. Bacon's revolutionary insight was that this approach should be modified by the understanding that empirical facts are of overriding importance in scientific progress.

It is likely that what he meant was that, to manage the world, we must understand and accept how it works. It is therefore possible to claim Ba-

con as the first champion of sound science as a basis for policies for managing the environment. The trick for mankind is to get the management of nature right, not to avoid it.

Finally, let me tackle the proposition that we should not take any environmental risks. Certainly it is true that prevention is much better than cure. Policies must continue to aim at preventing damage, rather than clearing up the consequences of nature's own behaviour.

Finally, let me tackle the proposition that we should not take any environmental risks. Certainly it is true that prevention is much better than cure. Policies must continue to aim at preventing damage, rather than clearing up the consequences of nature's own behaviour.

This precautionary approach is surely the right one, but it cannot eliminate all risks. In some cases, environmental risks have been unforeseen and unforeseeable. CFCs are a good example: they were invented – by the man who first thought of putting lead in petrol, incidentally – as a cleaner and safer means of refrigeration and blowing foams. Only after they had been in use for many years did evidence emerge that they were harming the ozone layer.

This precautionary approach is surely the right one, but it cannot eliminate all risks. In some cases, environmental risks have been unforeseen and unforeseeable. CFCs are a good example: they were invented – by the man who first thought of putting lead in petrol, incidentally – as a cleaner and safer means of refrigeration and blowing foams. Only after they had been in use for many years did evidence emerge that they were harming the ozone layer.

In future, no doubt, new problems will come to light in unexpected quarters. When this happens, the political reaction should be swift. We should trust science and human ingenuity to tell us what action to take, but the Government's stewardship of the economy means that the costs of the precautions must be proportionate to the risk, and the costs of compliance with environmental controls of all kinds should be proportionate to the environmental benefits.

It is likely that what he meant was that, to manage the world, we must understand and accept how it works. It is therefore possible to claim Ba-

This article is extracted from the 1990 Wilson Lecture, to be given at Godolphin & Latymer School, Hammersmith, tonight.

many political parties are open to a chip with a name like that.

Well, I also take parking very seriously, which could be the only thing I have in common with the Cavendish Conservatives.

Resident parking down our way is something of a racket like our poll tax, it is cheap but also like our poll tax, it does not tell the full story. There is a huge imbalance between the number of permits sold and the places available, causing residents great problems in finding a bay in which to park. If the council raised the price and increased the number of spaces it would receive few complaints, for time is money for citizens who own motor cars and live in Westminster.

We vehicle owners are more suitable targets for fund raising than "people over 18" – the only criterion that makes one liable for the community charge.

## The phantom meter mercenaries

I experienced no joy when they announced that Westminster's poll tax was to be £195; I felt ashamed. It meant that a brace of elderly Friends rattling around the upper floors of one of Lord Howard de Walden's houses in Wimpole Street would be better off by £800 per annum. It must be within the bounds of an administration to ensure that folk like us, living in comfort in the area of our choice, at best make a fair contribution to local expenditure, certainly do not benefit at the expense of the less wealthy.

They keep close to buildings, move in the shadows; their suits are the colour of London W1, and they wear no hats; their shoes are fashioned of cracked cement like the pavements they tread. Pro-

grammed to call citizens "Sir" and "Madam", they pounce with celerity, then fade like Macavity into the mystery car into the oyster light of their environment.

There was a time when I could leave my car outside the house, looking up and down the street from my study window for oncoming wardens. No more. Among the plethora of pedestrians who tread the pavements of Wimpole Street are now to be found not only those in search of medics who proliferate the area, but stealthy council employees who feed on petty offences as birds feed on stale breadcrumbs. Picture a silver-grey car nearly parked by a meter that gobbles

local Macoute the right to strike. An excess ticket is affixed to the windscreen by the faceless ones; the alternative fines are £10, £20, £30, and one of these sums is ringing. It is the final, the largest sum, that is ringing, though after 30 minutes of excess you become An Offender with no "opportunity to pay a fixed penalty".

The full panoply of the law will be invoked. Black caps are likely to be supplied to magistrates, last-breakfast vouchers are even now being designed. It makes one wonder (a) what crime you can commit for a tenner; (b) whether it might not be cheaper to move to Lambeth; and (c) whether pulling the communication cord



CLEMENT FREUD

round coins in return for which it accords a scant 40 minutes of welcome. Within mega-seconds of the withdrawal of hospitality – like after 41 minutes – you reach the EXCESS period and give the

alexis 1500



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## THE NERVOUS MINORITY

The findings of three Sunday newspapers which have polled Conservative MPs on their current view of Mrs Thatcher's leadership obviously reveal too large a measure of discontent for the Prime Minister's comfort. The Sunday Times poll shows that just over 25 per cent of Tory backbenchers (on the basis of a sample selected in proportion to the statistical strength of various wings of the party) would like her to go before the next general election. Polls in the Mail on Sunday and The Independent on Sunday suggest roughly the same.

Yet as so often happens, the conclusions suggested by the statistics depend on the way these are presented. In this case, the figures could equally well be regarded as showing that Mrs Thatcher still has the support or acceptance of some 75 per cent of her backbenchers. That is by no means a despairing position for her, given the government's difficulties with the poll tax and the continuing burden of high interest rates.

After more than a decade of power, demands for a change of leadership were bound to surface quickly in the event of political trouble. It is perhaps surprising that Mrs Thatcher's Tory critics are not more numerous — especially given the number now on the back benches who are disgruntled, either because they have been dismissed from the government or feel they have been passed over.

The political reality that the dissidents should grasp is that their present manifestations of alarm are self-defeating for two main reasons. The first is the obvious one that, if Mrs Thatcher were to decide to step down soon, it would be interpreted as at worst a victory for the Militants and their allies in their attempts at social disruption, and at best as an admission that the opposition parties had made their case against the present direction of policy. It would be a confession of failure which would invite defeat at the General Election.

Secondly, there is no consensus in the party in favour of a single candidate to take Mrs Thatcher's place, nor even on a group of potential candidates from whom a successor would be chosen. Only one name is put forward with any real measure of support that of Mr Michael Heseltine. He is the favoured candidate of virtually all the MPs who want Mrs Thatcher to stand down.

Mr Heseltine is a popular figure in the party and since he resigned from the Cabinet over the Westland affair he has conducted himself

with consummate skill making speeches wherever he can, expounding his particular brand of Toryism (on social and economic policy as well as on Europe), while at the same time consistently refusing to stake a claim against Mrs Thatcher.

Of course it is his supporters who now attack her, and their criticism is probably not uncomical to him. Nevertheless his own consistent position has been that he believes she will lead the party at the next election and that he cannot see any circumstances in which he would challenge her.

He should be taken literally at his own words which are, indeed, reflection of the political truth. For it is impossible to see how he could stand against Mrs Thatcher without grievously splitting the party — which would probably deliver victory to Labour at the next election.

Mr Heseltine's position, which is in favour of much closer political integration in Europe, is held by an enthusiastic minority of Tories; but it is not the majority position. His candidature in the present circumstances would threaten the split his party most needs to avoid.

The same is true, to some unquantifiable degree, on social and economic policy. For most Tories, Mr Heseltine's candidature would be seen as tending to disown much of the Thatcherite revolution from which the country has benefited. So skilled a politician as Mr Heseltine must be only too well aware of these risks. He must know that if his time is to come, it has to be later.

All this is no reason for loyal Thatcherites in the country to try to cold-shoulder a politician who can command audiences as convincingly as Mr Heseltine undoubtedly can. The failure of the beleaguered Tories in Mid-Staffordshire to invite him to speak is foolish. They only deprive themselves of one of the Tory voices who can do most to help them and for no good reason.

If they troubled to think, they must recognise that Mr Heseltine cannot constitute a positive threat to Mrs Thatcher now. The reality is that she is the only person with the capacity to lead the party to victory in the next general election. All that the dissidents in parliament are achieving by their alarm is to undermine confidence without any prospect of gaining their ends.

What the Tory malcontents are doing now is demonstrating a failure of nerve. That is the best way of ensuring the defeat which they say they are trying to avoid by demanding a change at the top.

## IRAQ'S ALIEN JUSTICE

To sentence a journalist to death for going after a scoop, and a nurse to 15 years' imprisonment for acting as his chauffeur, is a version of justice so repugnant to the British mentality as to be almost incomprehensible. Yet the ferocity of the Iraqi Revolutionary Court, which has imposed these penalties on Mr Farzad Bazoft and Mrs Daphne Parish, will scarcely have surprised those familiar with the Baghdad regime's odious record. However excessive, the Iraqi response to the unauthorised appearance of an Iranian-born reporter at a secret military base was all too predictable.

What can now be done? The Prime Minister's appeal to the Iraqi President to exercise clemency was a vital first step. Those who bear no responsibility for the lives of these two people should be slower to accuse her of thereby legitimising the trial. Mr Gerald Kaufman, in particular, has laid himself open to the charge of seeking to make political capital out of the Bazoft case.

There are indignant demands for stronger action to be taken forthwith. It is, however, unlikely that diplomatic sanctions would have the effect of encouraging President Saddam Hussein to commute the death sentence. The withdrawal of the British ambassador from Baghdad, without co-ordination with our Community partners, would tend to reduce British influence on the outcome of the appeals from London and Brussels.

A more serious possibility is that of despatching a high-level delegation to Baghdad. Even if Mr Bazoft's Iranian origins continue to be cited by Iraq as a reason for denying British diplomats proper access to

him, such a mission might succeed in persuading President Hussein to offer Mrs Parish — whose role in the affair appears to have been minimal — the prospect of early release. It would be easier to negotiate on Mr Bazoft's behalf in Baghdad than via the Iraqi embassy in London.

So far the British response to the sentences has been to accept Iraq's right to conduct its judicial procedures as it sees fit. This policy keeps the matter on a judicial plane, as far as possible, and aims to avoid raising the political stakes.

Baghdad will certainly think twice before ignoring such a strongly-worded message, and should be given a little time to consider. But if it seems that a mission to Baghdad would be received favourably there, the Government should not hesitate to send one.

Mrs Thatcher's meeting with King Hussein of Jordan yesterday opens up another avenue through which Iraq may be made aware of British dismay. The expressions of support already offered by the European Community have been unusually prompt, but it is to be hoped that the appeal will be taken up at ministerial level. Herr Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, is thought to be especially influential in Baghdad, and pressure from him would be welcome.

The whole affair is a sobering reminder that liberal Western notions of "human rights" are still not shared by large sections of humanity. Journalists, more than most people, are obliged by their work constantly to confront these cultural limitations. When they fall victim to alien norms of justice, they deserve maximum assistance from civilised societies.

## TWILIGHT OF THE HOMELANDS

The similarity between Presidents Gorbachov and de Klerk has become something of a political cliché. Nevertheless, these two reformers have more than courage in common. In both South Africa and the Soviet Union the promise of democracy has unleashed expectations and demands in peripheral satrapies which could yet de-rail the process of reform at the centre.

There is, however, one cardinal point of difference between Mr Gorbachov's trials with his rebellious nationalities and Mr de Klerk's tribulations in the homelands. The people of South Africa's "independent" homelands are seeking not more independence from Pretoria, but reincorporation into a reformed South Africa. For, if the end of apartheid is to mean anything, it must mean the end of apartheid's most expensive creation: the Ciskei, Transkei, Venda and Bophuthatswana, only the last of which, because of its mineral wealth, has any claim to economic viability.

The product of the Bantu Self Government Act of 1959, South Africa's 10 black homelands — four of which were later persuaded to accept an illusory independence — are among the last remaining structures built by the architect of apartheid, Mr H.F. Verwoerd. These scattered scraps of largely impoverished land had a dual purpose: to remove black South Africans from the all-white parliamentary system and to "reverse the flow" of blacks into South Africa's white cities.

Even when it became glaringly apparent that the black majority in "white South Africa" would continue to increase, apartheid's planners were undaunted. With the hubris and the cynicism unique to social engineers, a

Nationalist cabinet minister was able to anticipate the day when enforced citizenship of the homelands would mean, on paper at least, "there would be no black South Africans." That dream, too, collapsed.

Today, as Mr de Klerk fans the hopes of the emergence of a non-racial democracy, South African troops, like their counterparts in the Soviet Union, keep an uneasy peace in homelands whose people are anxious to share in that process. It is easy to blame the unrest on political agitation. Indeed, it was to be expected that the enemies of peaceful negotiation within black ranks would find fertile ground in the homelands to test Mr de Klerk's resolve.

He should keep his nerve. Were he to open discussions with those homeland leaders who wish to return to Pretoria's embrace, he would defuse the unrest, in the full knowledge that by doing so he would probably unseat those who still cling to independent office.

South Africa, like the Soviet Union, is a country of diverse and often mutually hostile ethnic groups whose existence any government ignores at its peril. But apartheid's great failure was to insist that, for black South Africans, their tribal identity was their only political attribute and then to make that identity the key, not to power, but to its shadow.

As Mr de Klerk, in an obvious reference to Verwoerd's ideology said in a recent, but largely unreported speech: "Man tries to force the great river of economic and social reality into the narrow channels of his own doctrine. In due season the flood comes and washes at least part of his endeavours away." In South Africa's black homelands the flood is rising.

## Stopping fraud in documents

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health

Sir, I was interested in your coverage (report, February 26) of Operation Goldring, with its worrying evidence of bogus marriages and immigration fraud. It is not however, correct to conclude that the Government is turning its back on a possible solution.

Our 1988 Green Paper recognised the problem caused by the ready availability of birth certificates. It proposed that every applicant for one, who was not an accredited researcher, should have to offer proof of identity. However, this approach was widely criticised as needlessly bureaucratic as well as liable to hamper the work of individual family historians. Accordingly we have devised a different answer.

Under the White Paper which came out in January (Registration: Proposals for Change CM139) there will be two kinds of certificate which can be purchased. While the unofficial "paper" copies will be obtainable by anyone, they will not be accepted by official agencies for formal purposes. Official agencies will only take cognisance of certified copies and to obtain one of these an applicant will have to provide evidence that he or she is the person named there or otherwise has a legitimate reason for purchasing it.

Alongside these proposals, the White Paper will require both parties to a marriage to give notice of it (instead of only one as at present), and normally to do so at least 15 days in advance. Registrars will have the right to require legal documents to be produced so as to establish the identity of the parties before them.

All these changes have still to be passed into law but, once that has taken place, the Government is confident that they will have a major impact on the problems which your article has identified.

A strategy based on the White Paper proposals, though effective, will also stop us short of the comprehensive population register advocated in Mr Redfern's letter to you (March 5). As Mr Redfern recognises, creating such a register would raise controversial questions of individual privacy which go much wider than reform of the registration service.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER FREEMAN,  
Department of Health,  
Richmond House,  
79 Whitehall, SW1.  
March 7.

Beating the bike ban

From Dr M. S. Brzeski

Sir, Father Delaney's difficulty (March 1) in transporting his bicycle to quayside is familiar to me. I deny British Rail the opportunity to impede my progress by cycling to an airport, then flying to my continental destination, bicycle secure and unharmed (tyres deflated in the hold).

During the past decade airlines have been increasingly obliging. Charter flights may conjure up sad images of mass tourism, but the reward of self-propulsion is access to uncharted hinterlands — may I particularly recommend Malaga as the portal to the splendours of Andalucia, and Palermo as the gateway to Sicily.

Yours en vélo par avion,  
MACIEJ BRZESKI,  
Flat 2/R,  
16 North Gardner Street,  
Glasgow.  
March 1.

From Mr N. Giles

Sir, I have shepherded our family on two cycling holidays in France. Those who know what exquisite delights await them should do nothing to encourage others to follow. Over-exposure to hordes of English cyclists will surely destroy what is at present the most easily accessible, charming and gentle adventure available to moderately energetic families.

Yours faithfully,  
N. GILES,  
Avalon,  
58 Brockham Lane,  
Brockham,  
Surrey.  
March 7.

## Mental puzzles

From the Rector of Caversham

Sir, It is bad enough having to share a bed with my wife and the entire *Encyclopaedia Britannica* night, but could you print the "Tournament of the Mind" in one of your profuse pull-out sections and not on the back of Corin or Freud — of whom I cannot get sight until the wee small hours?

Some of your readers are a bit thick and prefer ribs tickled rather than minds stretched.

Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD KINGSBURY,  
Caversham Rectory,  
20 Church Road,  
Caversham,  
Reading,  
Berkshire.

From Mrs Hazel Bateman

Sir, With reference to Round One of the "Tournament of the Mind" (March 6): if a bath is taking 15 or 20 minutes to fill, and 30 minutes to drain, the logical answer is to obtain the services of a plumber!

Yours faithfully,  
HAZEL A. BATEMAN,  
24 Heathlands Road,  
Chandler's Ford,  
Hampshire.

March 7.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Concern about the Harrods ruling

From Mr H. J. Scrope

Sir, An alarming point arises from the answers, as reported in *The Times* (March 8), given by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to questions about the Harrods affair.

Mr Ridley is reported as justifying his decision not to use his powers under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 on the grounds that "there are no outside shareholders in the House of Fraser company". He is reported as being of the view that the Act was designed for the protection of the public in their capacity as company shareholders.

There appears to be one of two solutions — either the DTI has no confidence in its inspectors, in which case it should say so; or the whole transaction is political, brimming with ulterior motives on the Government's part.

If this is his view then a company running its own private company can now presumably take its customers for as big a ride as he chooses without risk of the secretary of state applying to the court for a disqualification order under the Act.

Of course, as the minister said, the Act is there for the protection of the public; but surely it is there for the protection of the public as creditors and consumers, not as shareholders.

One of the duties of the secretary of state is to make application to the court for a disqualification order under the Act if he comes to the conclusion that to do so is "expedient in the public interest". Mr Ridley has come to his conclusion in the Harrods case. I am not seeking to query whether or not his conclusion is right, but to draw attention to the fact that the reasoning he has given in public should be a cause for alarm.

If not corrected, it could effectively pull the teeth of the Act before those teeth have even had the chance of showing they can bite. One hopes that the secretary of state will make it plain that he did not mean what he is reported to be.

All these changes have still to be passed into law but, once that has taken place, the Government is confident that they will have a major impact on the problems which your article has identified.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY SCROPE,  
Harris and Dixon Ltd.,  
21 New Street,  
Bishopsgate, EC2.

March 8.

Poll tax anomalies

From the Reverend Professor G. C. Stead

Sir, Second-home owners, though commonly dispraised, have often acquired, and sometimes saved from demolition, houses which are too small, too remote, or too inconvenient to be acceptable to local residents, but which, precisely because of the contrast with a well-appointed town house, make an enjoyable holiday refuge.

Even paying low rates, as at present, such an owner will probably contribute to local resources far more than he takes out, since residing only occasionally his demands on such services as refuse collection will be minimal, and for education, nothing at all.

With two units of poll tax imposed as with your correspondent (March 5), his case will be pitiable. And if anyone thinks that such an owner will get what he deserves for intruding where he is not wanted, let him consider the man who, through old age, infirmity, or change of occupation, desires to sell. He may well find that his property, instead of commanding a modest price, has become unsaleable because of its poll tax liabilities. Is he then, and indeed his heirs, to be taxed in

perpetuity, in support of services which he has no intention or opportunity of ever using?

Yours very truly,  
CHRISTOPHER STEAD,  
13 Station Road,  
Haddenham, Ely,  
Cambridgeshire.

March 5.

Rational sentencing

From Mr Gregory Trevor-Jones

Sir, The avoided aim of the Government's White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*, is to achieve a more "coherent" system of sentencing. The House of Lords select committee on murder and life imprisonment recently recommended that the mandatory life sentence for murder be abolished. It is regrettable that this recommendation has not found its way into the White Paper.

A sentence of life imprisonment does not mean what it says. Very few "lifers" actually end their days in prison. The average time actually served by murderers released from prison in the years 1983-88 was between 10 and 11 years.

Who then decides how long a murderer will actually stay in prison? A judge? No. The answer, in practice, is a Home Office minister. Early in the prisoner's sentence, the minister decides (after consultation with the trial judge and Lord Chief Justice) when the case will first be referred to a local review committee, the first step in the release process.

Yours faithfully,

G. TREVOR-JONES,  
Farrar's Building,  
Temple, EC4.

March 8.

Maritime accidents

From the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization

Sir, Mr Max Nicholson (February 26) suggested that the International Maritime Organization is ineffective in reducing damage to marine waters. On the contrary, there is strong evidence that IMO safety measures have been instrumental in reducing serious casualties involving oil tankers.

For example, the number of major oil spills has been reduced from 25 per year during the 1970s to no more than eight per year during the whole of the decade of the 1980s. This number is still too high, but there is no doubt that it would have been even worse but for the work of IMO.



## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
March 10: Today is the Anniversary of The Prince Edward.

March 11: This afternoon The Princess Royal, Patron, Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union, attended a special match of the County versus the Royal Signals at the Memorial Ground, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

#### Luncheon

The Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher were hosts yesterday at a luncheon held at Chequers in honour of the King and Queen of Jordan. The other guests were:

Mr and Mrs Sir Harry and Mrs Sheila Cecil Parkinson, Mr and Mrs Sir John Wilson, Mr and Mrs Sir Michael and Lady Alexander of Weston, Mr Justice Sir John H. Steers, Mr Justice Sir Charles Powell.

#### Service dinners

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment Volunteer Dinner Club  
The annual dinner of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment Volunteer Dinner Club was held on Saturday at Kimberley Barracks, Preston. Lieutenant-Colonel R.C. Aldis, Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, presided.

6th/7th Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers (TA)  
Colonel J.N. Eggar presided at the annual dinner of the 6th/7th Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers (TA) dinner club held on Saturday at the Portman Hotel, Penrhyndeudraeth.

#### Mahar Regiment

Former officers of the Mahar Regiment, accompanied by their ladies, held their annual dinner at the Bear Hotel, Street, Somerset, on Saturday. Major K.G. Summers presided.

#### Dinners

Old Tauntonians Association  
The annual dinner of the Old Tauntonians Association was held on Saturday at the County Hotel, Taunton. Mr David J. Kins, president, welcomed the guests, Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment, who also spoke. Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Knight, Mr George Gooley, Mr Roger Wooley and Mr Barry Sutton, Headmaster of Taunton School.

London Cornish Association  
Lord St Levan, accompanied by Lady St Levan, presided at the anniversary dinner of the London Cornish Association held at the Portman Hotel on Saturday.

#### Sir John Pilcher

Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Sir John Pilcher, GCMG, will be celebrated at the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer & St. Thomas More, Cheyne Row, Chelsea, on Thursday, March 29, at noon.

#### Fr Graham Adams

A solemn Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated in the Church of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady, Aston le Walls, Northamptonshire, yesterday by Father Graham Adams to mark the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, which took place in the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge on March 12, 1965.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr G.W.M. Crewson and the Hon A.M.A. Cecil The engagement is announced between Giles Wilson Mervyn, only son of Mr and the Hon. Mrs Pauline Crewson, and Aneka Margot Amherst, only daughter of Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney.

Mr A.R. Ward and Miss N.J. Gosselin

The engagement is announced between Angus, son of Lt Col David Ward, of Berwick Upon Tweed, and Mrs Mary Ward, of Stamford, Lincs, and Nicola, daughter of the late Capt Timothy Gosselin and of the Hon Mrs Tufnell and step-daughter of Col Greville Tufnell, of North Cerney, Glos.

Mr A. Barber and Mrs J. MacKenzie

The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Barber, of Hayling Island, and Jayne, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fowles of Burghclere Manor, Newbury.

Commander J.H. Bromage, DSO, DSC, RN (Retd) and Mrs R. Seldene

The engagement is announced between John, widower of Avis and Barbara, widow of Eric. The wedding will take place quietly at Syreton in the early summer.

Mr D. Concha and Miss C.J. Findlay

Commander and Mrs Jonathan Findlay, of Duxford, Hampshire, announce the engagement of their elder daughter, Caroline, to Dunc Concha, of Cusco, Peru.

Mr C.S. Duncan and Miss J.E. Gibberd

The engagement is announced between Gregory, son of Mr and Mrs W.S. Duncan, of Philadelphia, USA, and Judith, daughter of Dr and Mrs F.B. Gibberd, of Dulwich, London.

Mr S.W. Fisk and Miss H.C. Sims

The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robert V. Fisk, of Great Missenden, Bucks, and Heather, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Sims, of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

### Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Commonwealth Day service in Westminster Abbey at 3.10; and will attend a reception at Lancaster House afterwards at 6.45. The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Butler Trust, will present awards at the Awarding Ceremony, Lancaster Place at 4.15. She will lay the foundation stone of the new Parish Church of St Anne, Soho, W1, at 2.05; and, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Christopher New, 52 Dean Street, W1, at 3.05. Later, as a member of the Lady Jockeys' Association, she will attend a galloping meeting at Wetherby, Greyhound Stadium, at 7.15.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, will attend a luncheon at the Cavalry and Guards Club at 12.30.

### Birthdays today

Sir Antony Asciand, diplomat, 60; Dr Giovanni Agnelli, chairman, Fiat Group, 69; Mr R.J. Agnew, former chairman, Consolidated Gold Fields, 56; Mr Edward Albee, dramatist, 62; Mr R.E. Alleyne, artist, 64; Mr Virginia Bottomley, MP, 42; Mr Norbert Blumkin, former leader, Amadane Quartet, 67; Sir Guy de Belgrave, Director of the Royal College, 59; Mr Willie Durnan, rugby player, 40; Mr John Gross, writer, 55; Mr Philip Jones, principal, Trinity College of Music, 62; Mr A.D. Locheis, banker, 54; Sir James McKay, former Lord Provost of Edinburgh, 78; Mr David Mellor, QC, MP, 41; Miss Lizi Minnelli, actress and singer, 44; Mr David Minns, interior designer, 51; The Hon Roland Moyle, former MP, 62; Sir Tom Norman, former MP, 73; Mr Patrick Proctor, painter, 54; Miss Elizabeth Vaughan, soprano, 53; Mr Max Wall, comedian, 27; Mr David O. Williams, trades unionist, 64; Miss Giggie Withers, actress, 73.

He relied on reason and sought to expose what he perceived to be a weakness in his opponents' case. Without him, Labour would arguably have suffered more permanent effects from the battering.

The change in relations with Russia and the Eastern bloc was something for which he had patiently worked. In 1970 he said he wanted more trade between the East and West, free movement of citizens and cultural contacts. There should be a balanced reduction of forces, he said. The present reforms will have given him much satisfaction.

Stewart, who was born on November 6, 1906, had the rare distinction of holding office as Secretary of State in no fewer than three different Departments.

He first became Foreign Secretary in January, 1965, after being switched from Education Secretary, when Patrick Gordon Walker resigned. In August, 1966, he was appointed First Secretary of State and Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, with responsibility for introducing the government's controversial prices and incomes policy.

His colleagues will also remember him leading the first Labour delegation to the European Parliament, gaining acceptance among sceptical Europeans.

As a Minister he eschewed the theatrical, preferring the measured and patient expository arts than he had

acquired as a schoolmaster from 1930-42, first at Merchant Taylors' School and then at the Coopers' Company's School. He was also a WEA tutor for many years.

He was always well-briefed and showed himself a master of fact and argument in the many difficult debates in which he figured as a Minister in the House of Commons. But he never used a resonant or telling phrase or struck an attitude calculated to fire or move the public.

In 1929 he became President of the Oxford Union and two years later, when already a schoolmaster, he unsuccessfully contested West Lewisham as a Labour candidate,

acquired a place among the foremost leaders of the Revenue Bar.

At the end of 1983, he

retired from the Bar, having in

that year appeared in four

House of Lords cases, three of

which he won. When the

Middle Temple celebrated his

80th birthday with a dinner,

no fewer than five Law Lords

attended it.

His retirement from the Bar did not mean inactivity; he became legal adviser to Land Securities Ltd, with an office in Regent Street provided by his friend, Lord Sainsbury.

In 1912, he entered the Civil Service in the branch of the Inland Revenue dealing with assessments, transferring soon after the First World War to the Inspectorate of Taxes.

He was called to the Bar in 1931, became a King's Counsel in 1949, and immediately

acquired a place among the foremost leaders of the Revenue Bar.

At the end of 1983, he

retired from the Bar, having in

that year appeared in four

House of Lords cases, three of

which he won. When the

Middle Temple celebrated his

80th birthday with a dinner,

no fewer than five Law Lords

attended it.

His retirement from the Bar did not mean inactivity; he became legal adviser to Land Securities Ltd, with an office in Regent Street provided by his friend, Lord Sainsbury.

His first wife, Mabel, died in

1956 and he married again in

1969. His second wife,

Heather, and two sons of the

first marriage survive him.

He was called to the Bar in

1931, became a King's Counsel in 1949, and immediately

acquired a place among the foremost leaders of the Revenue Bar.

At the end of 1983, he

retired from the Bar, having in

that year appeared in four

House of Lords cases, three of

which he won. When the

Middle Temple celebrated his

80th birthday with a dinner,

no fewer than five Law Lords

attended it.

His retirement from the Bar did not mean inactivity; he became legal adviser to Land Securities Ltd, with an office in Regent Street provided by his friend, Lord Sainsbury.

His first wife, Mabel, died in

1956 and he married again in

1969. His second wife,

Heather, and two sons of the

first marriage survive him.

He was called to the Bar in

1931, became a King's Counsel in 1949, and immediately

acquired a place among the foremost leaders of the Revenue Bar.

At the end of 1983, he

retired from the Bar, having in

that year appeared in four

House of Lords cases, three of

which he won. When the

Middle Temple celebrated his

80th birthday with a dinner,

no fewer than five Law Lords

attended it.

His retirement from the Bar did not mean inactivity; he became legal adviser to Land Securities Ltd, with an office in Regent Street provided by his friend, Lord Sainsbury.

His first wife, Mabel, died in

1956 and he married again in

1969. His second wife,

Heather, and two sons of the

first marriage survive him.

He was called to the Bar in

1931, became a King's Counsel in 1949, and immediately

acquired a place among the foremost leaders of the Revenue Bar.

At the end of 1983, he

retired from the Bar, having in

that year appeared in four

House of Lords cases, three of

which he won. When the

Middle Temple celebrated his

80th birthday with a dinner,

no fewer than five Law Lords

attended it.

His retirement from the Bar did not mean inactivity; he became legal adviser to Land Securities Ltd, with an office in Regent Street provided by his friend, Lord Sainsbury.

His first wife, Mabel, died in

1956 and he married again in

1969. His second wife,

Heather, and two sons of the

first marriage survive him.

He was called to the Bar in

1931, became a King's Counsel in 1949, and immediately

acquired a place among the foremost leaders of the Revenue Bar.

At the end of 1983, he

retired from the Bar, having in

that year appeared in four

House of Lords cases, three of

which he won. When the

Middle Temple celebrated his

80th birthday with a dinner,

no fewer than five Law Lords



## THE ARTS

## Spiritual failings

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

Those already feeling a sense of spiritual and television loss after the demise of *A Sense of Guilt* (though I fear we have not heard the last of that) must have been reassured by the upmarket intellectual version which turned up on BBC 2 last night as *Circles of Deceit*. Here we had a master copy of classic paintings faced with an unfaithful wife, a one-parent mother who comes to look after him, and a schizophrenic son, not to mention a dragon ex-wife.

In the central role, Edward Fox gave the clenched, understated, distant performance of an actor trying to recall his agent's telephone number in order to lodge a stiff complaint about the quality of his dialogue. With some strong casting in minor roles, and characteristically intelligent camera angles, the director Stuart Burge did his best to overcome Stephen Wakeham's screenplay.

Somehow in the morass of half-baked artistic allusions was, I think, a morality tale about forgery and the Icarus painting in which a man is seen to fall out of the sky while none of the onlookers gives him so much as a second glance. But a lengthy quotation in the play from W.H. Auden showed that he had said it all rather better in a couple of lines than Nina Bawden in an entire near-miss Booker novel.

Faced with many more plays like this, I may have to go and live in Papua New Guinea where, for Saturday's *Missionaries* (BBC 2), Julian Pettifer located a promising shortage of potential converts. It would seem there are now so many missionaries in that area that unconverted souls are in very short supply and therefore as eagerly solicited as customers for double-glazing. The locals here await new arrivals with great enthusiasm, certain that they will bring, if not a colour television set, then at least some folding currency and a reliable fridge-freezer, along with the bible and a relentless belief in fundamentalism.

## The Thane hits mean streets

Peter Guttridge  
reports on how the Royal Shakespeare Company has won young fans abroad

**N**ew York, Upper West Side, mid-Monday morning. A flurry of snow falls between high buildings on to a shambolic group of teenagers in trainers, denim and bulky jackets. Black, white and Spanish, coolly self-aware, these are Flatbush and Queens kids — way out of their neighbourhood. They enter an old building and head for the basement. A Shakespeare workshop starts there at 10. It will be run by an education team from Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company — way out of their neighbourhood, too.

The RSC's Education Department has been running these workshops for schools in New York's five boroughs for the past six years. Usually it has been *Romeo and Juliet* explained in five days to 1,000 students from all over the city. This year, it is *Macbeth* to 2,000 kids from 65 schools in nine days. That is, 18 ninety-minute sessions at around 120 kids a go.

Apparently, New Yorkers love Shakespeare. A few blocks away, Dustin Hoffman is finishing his sell-out Broadway run in *Merchant of Venice*. In the schools, Shakespeare studies are compulsory. But New York is full of actors and highly regarded theatre companies. Why are the education authorities going to the expense of bringing over the RSC?

Michael Presser, executive director of the Midtown Management Group, is the man responsible. "I won't respond to questions about cost," he says. "The cost is minimal compared to the number of students. I find it very dubious equating cost with value. We want the RSC because I



Positive student response: "Before this, I tried to stay away from Shakespeare... I'm more interested now."

believe art is international and I want to bring an international perspective to Shakespeare."

That is fine by the RSC's education director, Tony Hill. "In England, we probably do more Shakespeare training for teachers than anyone else. New York makes sense to us. We sell our expertise here, and the money is useful because it goes back directly to kids in British schools. In times of financial hardship, the RSC is to be credited for persevering with a department which doesn't directly affect what happens on stage.

"We take youngsters from every borough, every kind of school. "We have a huge ethnic variety. We have the intellectually confident and we have the disaffected. We pitch the course to appeal to both without patronizing either."

Philip Banyon, a teacher from Flushing High School in Queens, takes students to London each Christmas for ten days to do the

rounds of the theatres. He has 23 at today's workshop, and all of them will eventually sit an exam involving knowledge of Shakespeare's works.

"This is a wonderful project," he enthuses. "It gives my students a hands-on approach to Shakespeare. And there is no better company to do Shakespeare. My students are committed to participate. That's all I ask of them. Participate at a hundred per cent, because 99 per cent is a bitch."

Many of the students do not realize they will be participating at all — they think they are here to see the play. "This outing is a treat for my students," says Miss Sanchez from the Samuel Jay Tilden High School in Flatbush. "Not only do they rarely go on school outings, they rarely, if ever, leave Brooklyn."

Two big black guys with amaz- ing flat-top haircuts, get restless and take the air outside. "Sure, we like Shakespeare," one says. "I

like, um, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, too." He pauses. "I can't think of no others."

Hill starts the workshop with a fast introduction, grabbing four or five from the audience to demonstrate the plot of *Macbeth*. Sound effects — screams, thunder, applause — and dramatic lighting are used to garner easy laughs.

The workshop builds up to a grand finale, where half a dozen

students are milked up, in costume and with lighting effects, to do part of a scene. It ends with a huge smoke bomb going off. The youngsters cheer wildly as smoke blows around them.

Philip Banyon, the Queens teacher, sees nothing strange about New York youngsters studying an Elizabethan English playwright. "He's not just an English playwright," he says patiently. "We're talking about the most significant man in the theatre and a major force in poetry. We're talking about the bard."

## Heavy on the howls

ROCK  
Jasper ReesHouse of Love  
Albert Hall

When they made their nerve-wracked large-venue debut at the Town and Country last autumn, this quartet were a House of Love by name but a chamber of horrors by nature. If some reports about internal friction are to be believed, the problems lay with lead guitarist Terry Bicker, who was having no problems living up to his name.

Bicker has since departed, and without him a band unreasonably hyped by the new Smiths have put their false start behind them and begun again. Frontman Guy Chadwick admitted as much on Friday night, when he described the recently released *Fontana*, which includes a reminiscence of their classic first single "Shine On", as "our second debut album".

Still, the highlights of a much improved live show tended to be songs from their first album. *The House Of Love*, "Road", "Christmas" and "Hope" all stuck to a basic House of Love formula: a delicate melody bracketed underneath by a kindergartener bass line, and above by a howling monotone on guitar, with Chadwick's guitar providing a wall of sound as a backdrop. It is crude, but whether done very loudly ("Real Animal", "Salome") or relatively softly ("Man to Child", "Plastic"), it works.

There were some subtle variations here and there a technical hitch made an interesting change. Chadwick could have been fined for heavy-duty guitar-abuse in one or two songs, and by the encore Bicker's replacement, Simon Walker, was to be heard plucking guitar solos bordering on the banal.

This could be read as a late bid to steal some limelight, but there is no upstaging Chadwick, who despite his shyness seems to have been designed to attract attention. His body language says one simple thing: intense.

## Walton ceremonial tradition

Next were the strings for Vaughan Williams's *Tallis Fantasia*, which Sir Charles swept through in beautiful style — alternately austere and impassioned. Then came a Barbican speciality: the 30 seconds of uniquely irritating scratch while a hydraulic mechanism lifted the piano up to the platform. It seemed a bit pointless, really, in the course of a cumbersome performance of Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto, John Lill only seemed to be hammering the Steinway back into the basement again.

However, that disappointment was dispelled by *Belsazar*, after which the orchestra, chorus and audience rose to sing "Happy Birthday", and the RPO's manager staggered on bearing a large cake. Well deserved.

shadowed by a synthesizer making sounds like pianissimo steel band. Or one might be trying to follow some weird mechanism in the accompaniment and suddenly find oneself taken unawares by a sentimental violin line. Ives and Stravinsky are both part of the picture, but Mason is an original. So too is Dominic Muldowney, though his *Lonely Hearts* was a disappointment. The basic idea was attractive: to have Linda Hirst sing lovelorn announcements from *Time Out* to music drawn from complex late 14th-century French song towards a late 20th-century nightclub, with rhythmic counterpoint occasionally flowing down into strains featuring John Harle's saxophone. But stretched to half-an-hour the jape wore thin, and the final attempt at seriousness was a miscalculation.

## Protest, patriotism and pederasty

THEATRE  
Benedict NightingaleSaint Oscar  
Hampstead

Sartre wrote a book called *St Genet* to argue, in his cerebral French way, that there was a kind of reverse holiness in his fellow-dramatist's undeviating commitment to deviancy. The literary theorist Terry Eagleton has similar reasons for canonizing Oscar Wilde in this, his first play. At some odd, owlish level he seems to believe that his subject's pederasty was a protest against the occupation of Ireland, a V-sign brandished at British imperialism.

To say that his play is longer on ideas than on common sense or dramatic event is not necessarily to condemn it. After all, Shaw shamelessly sacrificed plot for intellectual debate, and still held his audiences' attention. But for all his mental agility and sophisticated humour, Eagleton is lacking in Stavrian variety, momentum and fun.

The Field Day Theatre Company's production, directed by the dramatist Trevor Griffiths, is not all purposeful talk. The cast intermittently sing wry, breezy ballads about Wilde and, less happily, end by transforming him into a parody St Sebastian, sprouting arrows on suction pads. But the evening mainly consists of monologues cut into didactic duologues. Wilde's mother (Eileen Pollock) puts the case for Irish patriotism, his friend Richard Wallace (Seamus Moran) represents socialist activism, and his prosecutor Edward Carson (Brendan Gleeson) speaks up for both an outraged establishment and an Ulster under nationalist threat.

These figures can be ploddingly predictable, but then their func-

Oscar Wilde (Stephen Rea) beneath Saint Sebastian, in *Saint Oscar*

tion is primarily to allow Wilde to show his mental paces as he confronts the prospect of gaol. With his long, drawn moan-face contrasting strangely with his purple velvet. Stephen Rea's St Oscar is the evening's most obvious success, bringing a blaze flourish to the witticisms.

More to the point, the impression he leaves is of an intricate ironist wryly watching himself as he moves from *fin de siècle* posturings to serious defiance: "you subjugate whole races, you condemn the mass of your people

proved less popular, possibly because audiences did not care to see how easily her three heroines ran rings round their menfolk.

Lucilia's affair with the dogged Philibell (Nicholas Mousa) is at risk because her previous lover threatens to produce her amorous letters. Leslie (Karen Mann) cannot decide between the worthy Grand Foy and Beaumaine (Stephen Earle), a dashing young rake with whom, Miranda (Melanie Sylvester) flirts in order to tease her own suitor. What appears at first sight to be a cliché complication — a love letter dropped by Lucilia's maid — neatly brings about the plot's resolution. If Lucilia (Irina Iliniss) can convincingly claim the letter as a forgery, her previous correspondence can be dismissed as forgeries too. The men are fooled, the couples pair off and even the odd man out is

allowed, in this production, to depart with the lass who has been torn by the spinet.

The stage is steeply raked but towards the audience so that it faces us as a waist-high overhang, on and around which stand linked boxes of different sizes serving as steps, seats, tea tables and, with their lids raised, screens to lurk behind. The notion that courtship is a playful game is cleverly sustained by having the cast help one another move these boxes to fresh positions, while the scenes themselves are enlivened by an energetic rally at badminton, two elegant swings (designer: Elizabeth Ascroft) and stylish acting for which the right word is pretty. Congratulations to the above named and to Linda Debeau who makes the doddering Bonset into a gem of absent-minded interference.

The immediacy present in songs such as the "Intermezzo", with its words warmly hugging the line, and the fantastic projections of the imagination in "Alf einer

## Jeremy Kingston

Love at a Loss  
Everyman, Liverpool

This sprightly production, directed by John Doyle with more wit than the play truly warrants, is the only surviving comedy by Catharine Trotter, an author deemed so obscure that the *Oxford Companion to the Theatre* ignores her, while the *DNB* devotes most of its article to her philosophical works.

Before she married a clergyman and took the extreme course of departing for Aberdeen, she appears to have enjoyed a racy life in London, where she was one of the remarkable group of women who wrote successfully for the Restoration stage. She was only 16 when the first of her tragedies became the hit of the season. *Love at a Loss*

CONCERTS  
Richard MorrisonRPO/Groves  
Barbican

So many battalions of performers swept back and forth across the Barbican's platform on Saturday night that it sometimes seemed like a remake of *War and Peace*. But in the centre was a figure much too generous in spirit ever to play Napoleon. It was Sir Charles Groves, and this epic gathering was to honour the conductor's 75th birthday.

His career, now spanning more than 50 years, is a model of unstinting and self-effacing service to our orchestras, particularly in Bournemouth and Liver-

## Paul Griffiths

LS/Knussen  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Without Michael Vyner, its animating artistic director, the London Sinfonietta is wreathed about with even more doubts and worries than usual, but this first of three concerts conducted by Oliver Knussen must have done something to restore the orchestra's confidence, as it renewed the audience's keen awareness of why this institution is so necessary. Here were four recent British works, three of them written for the Sinfonietta and unimaginable without such an ensemble.

First off was Robert Sexton's

chamber symphony *The Circles of Light*, which takes the form of Schenkerian chamber symphony but fills it with panels of intensely

musical glass: swirling luminous textures moving with a decisive harmonic sense. Later there was Brian Ferneyhough's compacted clarinet concerto *La chûte d'Icare*, with Michael Collins making the wild solo part sound grateful and brilliant. It is an encouraging sign that both these works are now available on record, the former on a new all-Sexton album from EMI.

A neat complement to the

Sexton was provided by Benedict Mason's Double Concerto for horn, trombone and ensemble,

pool, whose standards he raised markedly and whose crises he helped to avert; to British composers, whose premieres he has prepared so often and so conscientiously; to Mahler and Shostakovich, much of whose music he pioneered here; and to many amateur choral and youth ensembles, on which he bestowed excellent musicianship, sturdy, unfussy interpretations and unremitting encouragement.

It was fitting, then, that this celebration should climax in a brilliantly characterized and wonderfully noisy performance of Walton's *Belsazar's Feast*, with the Brighton Festival Chorus in superbly punchy form, Benjamin

pool fruitfully relishing the melo-drama of the baritone solo, and the Royal Philharmonic adding brass bands up the balcony aisle to the riotous assembly below. At the end, Sir Charles seemed overwhelmed, and perhaps a little startled, by the emotion he had

roused.

But this was an evening of many parts. First, about 30 brass and percussion players had offered Sir Charles a gale-force greeting, in the form of Haw Spratling's specially composed *Fanfare for an Uncommon Man*. The title may nod at Copland, but the strutting, dotted rhythms and spiced-up diatonic harmony evoked the full panoply of pomp in the Elgar and

Walton ceremonial tradition.

Next were the strings for Vaughan Williams's *Tallis Fantasia*,

which Sir Charles swept

through in beautiful style — alternately austere and impassioned.

Then came a Barbican speciality:

the 30 seconds of uniquely irritating

scratch while a hydraulic mechanism lifted the piano up to the platform.

It seemed a bit

pointless, really, in the course of a cumbersome performance of Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto,

John Lill only seemed to be

hammering the Steinway back

into the basement again.

However, that disappointment

was dispelled by *Belsazar*, after

which the orchestra, chorus and

audience rose to sing "Happy

Birthday", and the RPO's man-

ager staggered on bearing a large

cake. Well deserved.

shadowed by a synthesizer making

sounds like pianissimo steel

band. Or one might be trying to

follow some weird mechanism in

the accompaniment and suddenly

find oneself taken unawares by a

sentimental violin line. Ives and

Stravinsky are both part of the

picture, but Mason is an original.

So too is Dominic Muldowney,

though his *Lonely Hearts* was a

disappointment. The basic idea

# Who needs lessons in learning?



A recent Ilea survey found that Asian children do much better in school exams than do young white Britons. Hans Eysenck (left), the eminent psychologist, suggests some reasons for the achievement gap

The recently published Inner London Education Authority survey of examination results contains much material of interest, but it is important to realise its limitations. The major limitation is that it is not typical of the United Kingdom as a whole. Ilea is famous for spending the most money for the worst educational results. Furthermore, the social status of the families included is somewhat lower than would be expected from a more representative authority. Finally, the different national and racial groups singled out in the report are unlikely to be representative of immigrants as a whole, and even less so of the people living in the countries concerned.

The most interesting, but also puzzling, feature of the report is the list of average examination scores, tabulated according to ethnic background. In the compilation GCE O Level, a grade A result is awarded seven points, B six points and C five points, with CSE grade 1 being equivalent to O Level grade C. On this basis children who came from an Indian background, scored 22.8, on average, and Pakistani 20.6. This compared with English, Scots and Welsh children, who scored 15.7.

This was a sizeable difference, while that between the English, Scots and Welsh children, on the one hand, and children of Caribbean origin – who scored 14.3 – was not. Most puzzling was the fate of the Bangladeshi children, who finished at the foot of the table with an average score of 9.9.

The figures were culled from the results of examinations done by 18,314 pupils who sat the final year of the old GCE and CSE examinations in 1987. In some ways they are similar to results achieved nationwide in previous years. In others, they are different.

Indian, Pakistani (and Chinese) children have always done well – usually, slightly better than English, Scots and Welsh children in

everything but the study of English itself; however, the difference was usually quite small. On the other hand, children of Caribbean origin were also usually below the English, Scots and Welsh children, but the gap was much greater.

It seems likely that the similarities are characteristic of real differences, while the dissimilarities are due to the peculiarities of the sample – inner London is not England, and certainly not the UK.

What causes the differences? There is, of course, the eternal debate concerning genetic and environmental causes and their relative contribution. But such a debate would be unhelpful because there is no way of finding a scientifically meaningful answer at the moment. We know that IQ is very strongly influenced by heredity (to the extent of 70 per cent or thereabouts) and that scholastic achievement is strongly influenced by IQ. However, there are many other influences as well, including home environment and expectations, the quality of the teaching and the presumptions of the teachers concerning the abilities of the pupils, the ethos of the school and the discipline enforced in it. These would, by themselves, more than account for the observed differences, without having recourse to heredity.

I would not deny the possible influence of heredity. I would merely say that it would be impossible to assert that genetic differences between the groups were in whole or in part responsible for the observed differences in scholastic achievement. It is well known that French and German children have much higher achievement than British children, yet it would be absurd to suggest that these differences were due to heredity. Behavioural genetics is a complex subject, and we simply do not have the facts on which to base any estimate of the possible genetic contribution to the observed differences.



Following a family tradition: the importance placed on education by Indian and Pakistani parents may account for their children's good results

## 'We must encourage competition and place greater emphasis on discipline'

So what are the main environmental causes of the high scores of the Indian and Pakistani children and the poor showing of the British and Caribbean children? Sir Rhodes Boyson, the Conservative MP for Brent North and a former headmaster, has suggested that "the reason for the poor results of white children is the breakdown of the family unit". Presumably he would include the Caribbean children in this, in contrast with the strong "extended family" tradition of the Indian and Pakistani (and Bangladeshi) families.

But while this may play a minor part, it will not do as a main explanation. German and French families are not far behind the British in suffering the breakdown of the family unit. But school achievement there has not suffered to anything like the same extent as here.

Low expectations of parents is another reason given but that, too, must be doubtful. It used to be said that blacks did poorly at school because home expectations were low, but research has shown that both parents' and children's aspirations were as high as those of white children. Indeed, aspirations for both groups were perhaps unrealistically high. It is usually the teachers who have unjustifiably low expectations of black and working-class children. However it is doubtful if their expectations of Indian and Pakistani children are much higher.

An important point might be the high value set on education by Indian and Pakistani (and Jewish) parents. White and Caribbean parents may have been influenced too much by the anti-academic, anti-intellectual, informality-worshipping educational establishment, while Indians and Pakistanis who have stuck more closely to their accustomed values have rejected these false gods and attempted to influence their children in a more sensible direction.

It is Ilea which, more than any other educational authority, has failed its pupils – as Neil Fletcher, leader of Ilea itself, recently admitted: "The comprehensive dream in the form we implemented it has palpably failed."

Too much theory based on purely imaginary premises and too little practice based on ascertained fact have resulted in an educational nightmare from which only those unaffected by the rhetoric and the ideology have escaped. This is what saved Ilea's Indians and Pakistanis. It was their refusal to integrate and to worship false gods which is the most likely cause of their success.

'Too much theory based on imaginary premises and too little practice based on fact have resulted in a nightmare'

But what about the Bangladeshi children? The numbers involved are quite small, and the selection of this group of immigrants is probably too dissimilar to that of the Indians and Pakistanis to take the figures too seriously.

But it would certainly be worthwhile to look into the selection of this group and also to try and discover any other differences that might account for their poor showing.

Where do we go from here? It is important to realize that while certain explanations of the figures may seem convincing we are, in truth, just guessing. The facts can only be established by scientific research. Such research has never been done, and is unlikely to be done unless things change drastically.

There are too many interested parties with axes to grind, too many authorities with territories to defend, too many civil servants afraid of finding out how wrong they have always been to allow such simple factfinding and theory testing to take place. The costs would not be large, the end results of considerable importance, the improvement in future policy sizeable, but nothing is likely to be done.

Politicians, civil servants, local authorities, the educational establishment – none really wants to know, in case it has to acknowledge past errors and introduce new methods, such as selection, placing greater emphasis on discipline, a higher regard for intellectual values, regular achievement testing and an encouragement of competition.

If we did all that the white British children might catch up with the Indians and Pakistanis – and so might the Caribbean children. And – who knows? – they might all catch up with the schoolchildren in Germany and France.

## A smack for parents

### FIRST PERSON

Lynette Burrows

She used a wooden spoon to administer three smacks on his leg which does not sound like a person acting uncontrollably or dangerously. Moreover, numerous surveys have shown that more than 90 per cent of parents say they smack their children when they think fit, and that they believe it is necessary to do so.

Nevertheless a High Court judge upheld the decision of the council to punish the woman for doing what they did not like, and a legal specialist commented that the decision was a warning to all parents who physically punish their children.

This warning has been welcomed by the End Physical Punishment of Children (Epoch) group, publishers of a report, *No Smacking Guide to Good Behaviour*, as the shape of things to come in domestic autonomy. Does this mean that parents, as well as children, are to be under the compulsory guidance of educational and social service officials?

Since Parliament has never decided to interfere in the matter of normal family discipline, who exactly is responsible for the unilateral decision to penalize parents for doing what they believe is right for their children?

The answer is a tiny group of psychologists and sociologists who call themselves "child-care professionals". The true professional is the mother who has actually done the job full-time for a number of years, as few, if any, of today's experts have.

Therefore they are working with theories, backed up by self-justifying surveys. They are seldom confronted by the kind of reality that has enabled mothers to test and refine their childrearing over generations of closely observed experience.

They may be unable to see the harm that their theories have already done in creating conflict in the family, hooliganism in society and anarchy in many schools, but the rest of us are not so blind.

The eminent Dr L.E. Holt advocated, at the beginning of the century, "regimented conditioning" of babies to create good social habits and warned that "infants who are naturally nervous should be left much alone".

## I'm too young to start a Personal Pension right?

Wrong.



### Free Pocket Calculator

Sent without obligation with your FREE Personal Illustration. (One gift per applicant)

### Clock Radio + Smoke Alarm

Sent to you free if you make your own contributions to your pension plan.

Apply by 23rd March 1990. Although these terms may be available later, they cannot be guaranteed after this date.

FREE – our easy-to-read pensions booklet and your own Personal Illustration – both without obligation. Also discover the benefits you can enjoy with the Golden Card – issued to every Sun Alliance Personal Pension Plan policyholder.



Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_  
Forenames \_\_\_\_\_  
(in full) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Day / Month / Year

1. Are you  employed  self-employed?

2. When would you like to retire?  
 50  55  60  65  70  75

3. I want to contribute each month

£100  £50  £30  £20

Other amount £ \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum £15 up to a maximum of 17½% of your earnings, more if 36 or over)

4. Name of Financial Adviser (if any)

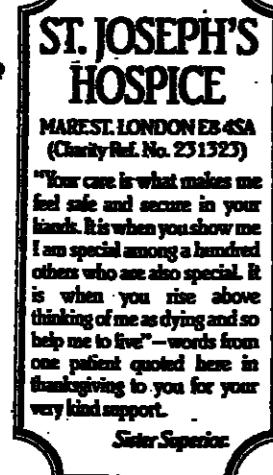
5. Your salary £ \_\_\_\_\_ p.a. (Please complete if you would like a personalised illustration)

POST TODAY - NO STAMP REQUIRED - NO OBLIGATION

We may call you to ensure you have received your Personal Illustration and help you with any queries you may have.

**SUNALLIANCE**  
LIFE & PENSIONS

A13/P1 (119) GR



Perform this operation. It's for your family's health.

The medical treatment you need, at a time when you need it. Surprisingly, you don't have to cut too deep into the family budget to make it possible. Post the coupon and find out more about joining BUPA, Britain's leading independent health care company.

To: BUPA FREEPOST, Penn, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP10 8BR.

Please send me my free, full colour guide, telling me about private medicine and all the advantages of joining BUPACare. I am under 65.

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Title: Mr \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. (Home): \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth of eldest adult: \_\_\_\_\_

BUPACare

Britain feels better for it.

A13/P1 (119) GR

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

## PREVIEW

TODAY Art &amp; Auctions

● TUESDAY Theatre &amp; Cabaret ● WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz &amp; World Music ● THURSDAY Opera, Dance &amp; Books ● FRIDAY Classical Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events both in London and across the country in the following seven days. Plus the daily Cinema Guide: the best of the new films in London and on release

## ART EXHIBITIONS

David Lee

## NEW IN LONDON

117TH ANNUAL WATERCOLOUR EXHIBITION: A reverberant affair including works by Gainsborough, J.W.M. Turner, De Wint, Varley, Ruskin Agnew's, 43 Old Bond Street, W1 (01-629 6175), Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, free, until April 6.

GLASGOW PRINT STUDIOS: Figurative prints, some very large, by several of the most original Scottish painters around, Peter Howson, Alan Davison and Steven Cammell, among them. Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (01-828 3302), Daily 10am-10pm, free, until April 22. From tomorrow.

TERRY FROST: A retrospective of work from 1948-89 by a painter of generous, sunny abstractions. Mayor Gallery, 22a Cork Street, W1 (01-734 3558), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until April 19. From tomorrow.

VANESSA BELL AND DUNCAN GRANT: Lithographs and drawings by the two principal painters of The Bloomsbury Group.

The Bloomsbury Workshop, 12 Grafton Place, WC1 (01-405 0632), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, free, until April 12. From tomorrow.

CHRISTOPHER COOK: New paintings of imaginary landscapes and anxious figures with a pell-mell, post-bomb sense and intuition about them. Burlington House, Grafton Place, W1 (01-434 1768), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10.30am-1.30pm, free, until April 21. From Wed.

EDWARD WADSWORTH (1889-1949): A centenary exhibition of work by a pioneer British surrealist who painted predominantly nautical and coastal scenes.

Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 (01-435 0382), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, 5.30pm, Sat-Sun 1-5pm, free, until April 22. From Wed.

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH SCULPTURE: Preparatory studies and sketches by Anthony Caro, Michael Sandle, Eduardo Paolozzi, William Turnbull, Barry Flanagan, David Mach and many more.

Cornwallis Brown, 2 Albemarle Street, W1 (01-408 0382), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, free, until April 12. From Wed.

WOODEN TOYS 1990: Commercially produced toys from Switzerland, Sweden and Germany. Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E1 (01-980 3204), Mon-Thurs 12.30pm, Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, free, until April 23. From Wed.

BAUHAUS PHOTOGRAPHY: An important show of 125 pictures from 1920-36 by teachers at the influential experimental German art school.

Goethe-Institut, 50 Princes Gate, SW7 (01-581 3344), Mon-Thurs 12.30pm, Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm, free, until April 21. From Thurs.

OUTSIDE LONDON

TRICIA GILLMAN: Recent paintings, occasionally featuring nude figures, which exhibit Metis-like decorative-ness and celebratory surface patterns. Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Alexandra Road, Swansea (0792 655008), daily 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until April 21.

A POPULAR ART: A show of British wall-papers (1930-60) which, in featuring examples designed by Graham Sutherland.

## In the spirit of the Brotherhood



The 19th-century photographer Julia Margaret Cameron had the credentials to be one of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. She knew most of the PRB painters, and recent research by her dealers, Colnaghi, has shown that she was heavily influenced by them in her subject matter, and more interestingly, influenced some of them in technique and pose.

For the exhibition, *Whisper of the Muse*, Colnaghi's Jeremy Howard has scoured Britain's public collections to support his thesis, and found ample evidence.

From Birmingham City Art Gallery he has Dante Gabriel Rossetti's "Beata Beatrix", the painter's tortured and guilt-ridden tribute to his suicide wife and model, Lizzie Siddall, begun in about 1862, before she died but completed after his own death by Ford Maddox Brown in 1877. Mrs Cameron's photograph of about 1867, using her maid, Mary Hillier,

land, Edward Bawden and Endre Marx, proves there was life before rock roses and Arax.

Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (061 273 4865), Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, free, until April 28. From Fri.

ANTHONY GREEN'S MIRROR: Asymmetrical paintings (1980-86) depicting intimate details of the artist's private life. Cleveland Gallery, Victoria Road, Middlesbrough (062 248155), Tues-Sat 12.30pm, free, until April 28. From Sat.

ALBERT IRVIN: Very large, gestural abstract paintings in all the watery colours of Italian ice cream.

Spaces, Gallery, 45 Preston Street, Exeter (0302 31768), Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, free, until April 15. From Sat.

VIVIAN PITTCHEWORTH (1895-1982): Watercolours of land and sea by a superb draughtsman and gifted teacher with a pell-mell, post-bomb sense and intuition about them. Austin/Desmond Fine Art, 3 High Street, Sunninghill, Berkshire (0990 291201), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10.30am-1.30pm, free, until April 21. From Wed.

EDWARD WADSWORTH (1889-1949): A centenary exhibition of work by a pioneer British surrealist who painted predominantly nautical and coastal scenes.

Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 (01-435 0382), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, free, until April 22. From Wed.

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH SCULPTURE: Preparatory studies and sketches by Anthony Caro, Michael Sandle, Eduardo Paolozzi, William Turnbull, Barry Flanagan, David Mach and many more.

Cornwallis Brown, 2 Albemarle Street, W1 (01-408 0382), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, free, until April 12. From Wed.

WOODEN TOYS 1990: Commercially produced toys from Switzerland, Sweden and Germany. Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E1 (01-980 3204), Mon-Thurs 12.30pm, Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, free, until April 23. From Wed.

BAUHAUS PHOTOGRAPHY: An important show of 125 pictures from 1920-36 by teachers at the influential experimental German art school.

Goethe-Institut, 50 Princes Gate, SW7 (01-581 3344), Mon-Thurs 12.30pm, Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm, free, until April 21. From Thurs.

OUTSIDE LONDON

TRICIA GILLMAN: Recent paintings, occasionally featuring nude figures, which exhibit Metis-like decorative-ness and celebratory surface patterns. Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Alexandra Road, Swansea (0792 655008), daily 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until April 21.

A POPULAR ART: A show of British wall-papers (1930-60) which, in featuring examples designed by Graham Sutherland.

DISCOVERY DAY: Two rediscovered Constables add interest to this British picture sale: a sketch of the River Stour at sunset towards Dedham from 1808-9 found in Ireland and a half-length portrait of Henry Greenway Lewis from 1813, discovered in Canada (both £20,000-£30,000). Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, W1 (01-493 8080), Viewing Mon, Tues, 9am-4.30pm. Sale Wed 11am.

FURNITURE FESTIVAL: Numerous good Georgian mahogany chests around £200-£1,200, sets of dining chairs from £200-£1,200, sets of Queen Anne and a classic George III-style satinwood sofa table from £800-£2,500. Sotheby's, Booth Mansion, Watergate Street, Chester (0244 315533). Viewing Monday 9.30am-4.30pm, tomorrow 9.30am-4.30pm, Saturday 10am-10.30am.

PICTURE PLEASE: Roland Vivian Pitchforth RA (1895-1982), a highly skilled watercolourist, loved lakes, estuaries and water light — qualities evident in the final studio sale of his work. More than 80 lots.

Sotheby's, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, SW7, 01-584 9161, Viewing Mon, Tues 8.45am-7pm, Wed 8.45am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

CUE CAMERA: A Dubroni from 1865, one of the earliest commercial cameras with internal plate processing (£20,000-£25,000). Highlight of this photographic sale.

Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (01-581 7611), Viewing Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-12.30pm. Sale Friday 17th April.

PRINT PERFECTION: Fifty-one outstanding lots of prints by Robert Sargent Austin belonging to Norman Tennant. The two men were close friends and Austin gave Tennant a copy of each of his minutely observed prints, etchings and dry points (est £100-£150). Devotion to accuracy and classic craftsmanship.

Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (01-629 6620), Viewing today 8.30am-4pm, Saturday 10am-1pm. From Wednesday 14th April.

PIPPING PLEASE: Roland Vivian Pitchforth RA (1895-1982), a highly skilled watercolourist, loved lakes, estuaries and water light — qualities evident in the final studio sale of his work. More than 80 lots.

Sotheby's, Booth Mansion, Watergate Street, Chester (0244 315533). Viewing Monday 9.30am-4.30pm, tomorrow 9.30am-4.30pm, Saturday 10am-10.30am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

CARTIER: Modern men's Cartier dress wristwatch, dial and bracelet framed with

French Resistance. Now her decorations, including a George Meade, Croix de Guerre and a Legion of Honour are to be sold for an estimated £4,000-£6,000. Probably the best French Resistance group to come on the market.

Christie's South Kensington, King Street, SW1 (01-639 8080), Viewing Thurs, Fri 9.30am-4.30pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. Mon-Sat 4pm. Sale March 20, 1990.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

COUNTRY COUSINS: A Charles II oak oval garter table 4ft 9in by 5ft 10in (£22,000-£23,000), complemented by a set of six George III-style oval Windsor armchairs (£1,200-£1,800), perfect for the executive country cottage.

Sotheby's, Summers Place, Billingshurst, West Sussex (0403 248155), Viewing Fri 9.30am-4.30pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm, Mon-Sat 4pm. Sale March 20, 1990.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this year. First of four sales.

Phillips, The Old House, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands (0564 776151). Viewing today 9.30am-5pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

PIPS: The House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, Sussex, which is selling thousands of smoking items this







## GOLF

# Ballesteros teaches an innocent Swede a lesson in patience

From Mel Webb  
Palma, Majorca

It was no sight for the squat man. The Spanish eagle grabbed the Swedish innocent, shook him about a bit and, in the end, chewed him up into small pieces as Severiano Ballesteros won the Majorca Open for the second time in three years, after a play-off with Magnus Persson yesterday.

Persson, aged 24, led at the start of an eventful final day by five strokes, but, ultimately, simply did not have the experience to carry the day, after a round of 73 to Ballesteros' 68 had left them tied on 269, 19 under par.

Ballesteros steadily chipped away at the Swede's lead throughout a long afternoon and, when it came down to a play-off, won because he had trodden a similar path before.

Persson, on the other hand, needed a route map, could not find his place and got lost in the lake on the first extra hole.

All week, the young Swede had been espousing the virtues of patience and his intention to play "conservative" golf. It was a bitter little irony, then, that he lost the chance of the

## Card of the course

hole	Yds	Par	hole	Yds	Par
1	289	4	10	289	4
2	387	4	11	540	5
3	444	4	12	193	3
4	154	3	13	565	4
5	403	4	14	315	4
6	338	4	15	145	3
7	145	3	16	410	4
8	341	4	17	165	3
9	286	4	18	165	3
Out	2,980	35	In	3,284	37
Total parage	6,264		Per 72		

first victory of his career, and a £45,825 prize, because of a moment of rashness.

He played the 72nd hole of the tournament by hitting a three-iron and a four-wood to the green. But he ended just short and in a greenside bunker, so, in an effort to get up in the play-off, he took the four-wood from his bag, he said, to need no more than a four-iron to the flag. He lived to regret the decision.

He finished in the lake, which juts out into the 509-yard hole, had to drop out under penalty, and was putting for a five from 35 feet. Ballesteros, meanwhile, was bunkered in two, chipped out to six feet and, conservatively, took the two putts he had in hand to win the title.

There were hiccups from

both men throughout the front nine in what had long since become a match-play contest, but as they came to the ninth tee, Persson, somehow, was still clinging on to his five-shot lead.

But then came a calamity for the lightweight Swede as he wafted his tee shot out of bounds into the garden of a villa on the left, and Ballesteros, smelling blood, loosed a huge drive which ended on the front edge of the green. It was 300 yards if it was an inch. He chipped to five feet, made the birdie putt and stood back and watched as Persson took three to get down for a double bogey six. It was a three-stroke swing, only two in it now, still anybody's tournament.

Persson showed some Spanish steel with putts from six feet and 20 feet for birdies on the next two holes, but let a stroke slip on the 12th, where he was bunkered. Ballesteros got his par to cut the lead to two, the Spanish challenge gathering momentum.

The gap was closed to a single shot at the next, where Persson made an unholy mess of a chip from a pin-high position off the green, while Ballesteros gathered his fourth birdie of the day.

None the less, Persson must have still harboured hopes of victory as he came to the last shot leading by a stroke. Ballesteros missed the green, Persson went 20 feet past from the bunker.

An exquisite little chip left Ballesteros' ball 18 inches from the hole, and he made the putt for a birdie. The prey was wriggling. That, in the end, he fell into the water, did not make his end any the less painful.

None the less, Persson must

have still harboured hopes of

victory as he came to the last

shot leading by a stroke.

Ballesteros' missed the green, Persson went 20 feet past from the bunker.

It involved a wire contraption clamped to the front of his cap. Two red beads are suspended in front of Lytle's eyes but when he addresses the ball, because of split vision, he sees four beads.

By keeping the ball in the middle of the beads throughout the whole swing, he succeeds in keeping his head stock still.

It was an England training weekend so neither team was complete. Ealing were without Mandy Langridge and Joan Lewis and Clifton missed their goalscorers attacker, Tammy Miller. But Ealing missed chances in the first half when Sue Woodward, the Clifton goalkeeper, did trojan work and then Sue Brumley, who missed a penalty stroke by an inch in the first half, followed up her own shot at a penalty corner to score the winning goal in the 55th minute.

Lyn Boltington, of Chelmsford, was, not surprisingly, named player of the match against Exmouth.

Meanwhile, the inventor and manufacturer of the shoes is seeking an injunction today to prevent the USGA from using his product. "Our suit will say there's nothing in the rules

that prevent us from doing

what we're doing," an executive said.

Another case of save-clutching involved Sandy Lytle, who scored 70 and then appeared on the practice range wearing a weird and wonderful device to help him hit straighter.

It involved a wire contraption clamped to the front of his cap. Two red beads are suspended in front of Lytle's eyes but when he addresses the ball, because of split vision, he sees four beads.

By keeping the ball in the middle of the beads throughout the whole swing, he succeeds in keeping his head stock still.

It was an England training

weekend so neither team was

complete. Ealing were without

Mandy Langridge and Joan

Lewis and Clifton missed their

goalscorers attacker, Tammy

Miller. But Ealing missed

chances in the first half when

Sue Woodward, the Clifton

goalkeeper, did trojan work and then Sue Brumley, who missed a

penalty stroke by an inch in the

first half, followed up her own

shot at a penalty corner to score

the winning goal in the 55th

minute.

Lyn Boltington, of Chelmsford, was, not surprisingly, named player of the match against Exmouth.

Meanwhile, the inventor and

manufacturer of the shoes is

seeking an injunction today to

prevent the USGA from using

his product. "Our suit will

say there's nothing in the rules

that prevent us from doing

what we're doing," an executive

said.

Another case of save-clutching

involved Sandy Lytle, who

scored 70 and then appeared on

the practice range wearing a

weird and wonderful device to

help him hit straighter.

It involved a wire contraption

clamped to the front of his cap.

Two red beads are suspended in

front of Lytle's eyes but when he

addresses the ball, because of

split vision, he sees four beads.

By keeping the ball in the middle

of the beads throughout the whole

swing, he succeeds in keeping his head stock still.

It was an England training

weekend so neither team was

complete. Ealing were without

Mandy Langridge and Joan

Lewis and Clifton missed their

goalscorers attacker, Tammy

Miller. But Ealing missed

chances in the first half when

Sue Woodward, the Clifton

goalkeeper, did trojan work and

then Sue Brumley, who missed a

penalty stroke by an inch in the

first half, followed up her own

shot at a penalty corner to score

the winning goal in the 55th

minute.

Lyn Boltington, of Chelmsford, was, not surprisingly, named player of the match against Exmouth.

Meanwhile, the inventor and

manufacturer of the shoes is

seeking an injunction today to

prevent the USGA from using

his product. "Our suit will

say there's nothing in the rules

that prevent us from doing

what we're doing," an executive

said.

Another case of save-clutching

involved Sandy Lytle, who

scored 70 and then appeared on

the practice range wearing a

weird and wonderful device to

help him hit straighter.

It involved a wire contraption

clamped to the front of his cap.

Two red beads are suspended in

front of Lytle's eyes but when he

addresses the ball, because of

split vision, he sees four beads.

By keeping the ball in the middle

of the beads throughout the whole

swing, he succeeds in keeping his head stock still.

It was an England training

weekend so neither team was

complete. Ealing were without

Mandy Langridge and Joan

Lewis and Clifton missed their

goalscorers attacker, Tammy

Miller. But Ealing missed

chances in the first half when

Sue Woodward, the Clifton

goalkeeper, did trojan work and

then Sue Brumley, who missed a

penalty stroke by an inch in the

first half, followed up her own

shot at a penalty corner to score

the winning goal in the 55th

minute.

Lyn Boltington, of Chelmsford, was, not surprisingly, named player of the match against Exmouth.

Meanwhile, the inventor and

manufacturer of the shoes is

seeking an injunction today to

prevent the USGA from using

his product. "Our suit will

say there's nothing in the rules

that prevent us from doing

what we're doing," an executive

said.

Another case of save-clutching

involved Sandy Ly

## CRICKET

# Abandonment is in sight as Bourda weather rages on

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Georgetown, Guyana

Amid scenes of utter farce, this ill-fated Georgetown Test match was yesterday consigned to a watery grave. Another night of wild weather rendered any hope of play feebble, and sent the officials of both teams into urgent conference.

With water lying more than six inches deep around the outfield at Bourda, it was surely not a case of if, but when, the game would be abandoned. The players, bowed by idleness and frustrated by this sad and Spartan country, are anxious to get away. Contingency plans are afoot to charter an aircraft and take the entourage to Trinidad several days early.

From a distance, it must sound presumptuous to condemn an entire Test after two blank days, but I have never seen a ground reduced to such a hopeless state. The canals which encircle Bourda, acting as its drain, have burst their banks so the water inside has nowhere to go.

Even with uninterrupted sunshine, which seems highly unlikely, conditions could not be fit for meaningful cricket for several days. The locals blame West Indian officials for scheduling the match to coincide with a new moon which, they say, invariably brings rain. Another myth is that ever since British rule ended here, and a statue of Queen Victoria was moved from the city to suburbs, there has been a curse on cricket in Georgetown.

Whatever the truth, it is a tragedy for a country in which pleasure and entertainment is

on strict ration. The Guyanese support cricket avidly and do not deserve to be so starved of it. But, after this latest financial disaster, I understand the West Indies board is coming to the conclusion that it can no longer include Georgetown in its itineraries.

There have been losers everywhere in this sorry saga, not least among those live television. Their viewership, high on the euphoria created by the first Test, yesterday had to make do with the sight of Tony Greig, resplendent in boater, blazer and tie but lagged below the knees where his trousers were rolled up and his feet bare for paddling. He was commenting on two youths trying to prove that cricket can be played underwater.

Sky, it seems, is taking the blame for everything on this tour. One report yesterday claimed that Saturday's play was only abandoned so early to save them money on a satellite, a theory which conveniently overlooks the fact that conditions were so desperate it could have been called off hours earlier.

It has also been suggested that the use of the rest day as a bad weather expedient was ruled out on objections from Sky. In fact, England ruled it out themselves, when the tour conditions were first discussed, on the grounds that an extra day would always be disadvantageous to one team.

The England squad was yesterday marooned in their hotel, unable even to phone home as Guyana's frail communications system collapsed with dry land.

Whatever the truth, it is a tragedy for a country in which pleasure and entertainment is

to all appearances failed to gather some time in the previous century.

It is a tribute to our Guyanese engineer, a largely ephemeral figure, that it actually worked at all. Which is more than can be said for CMJ's galoshes. He can be the only man, albeit gifted, with remarkable tenacity to have brought backshovels with him on the tour. And, emboldened by their success two days ago here, they were again yesterday protecting the official kiosques.

Richard Blakey, as the most around he field rose to unprecedented heights (or should that be depths?), the miracle was that we managed to effect an official BBC linkup. At least, for an hour or so the pick of your commentary team, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Vic Marks, Mike Selvey, and I were allowed the privilege of talking, we think, to London on equipment

to all appearances failed to gather some time in the previous century.

It is a tribute to our Guyanese engineer, a largely ephemeral figure, that it actually worked at all. Which is more than can be said for CMJ's galoshes. He can be the only man, albeit gifted, with remarkable tenacity to have brought backshovels with him on the tour. And, emboldened by their success two days ago here, they were again yesterday protecting the official kiosques.

I might even take the game up again — well, at least when the weather clears.

**Hadlee is to retire at the top**

From Qamar Ahmed

Auckland

Richard Hadlee, the most successful bowler in Test match history, cast a long shadow over the final of the Rothmans Cup triangular series yesterday.

The New Zealand fast bowler, aged 38, said he would retire from international cricket before the meeting with Australia at Eden Park, after this week's Test with New Zealand at Wellington, after a career in which he became the first bowler to take 400 wickets at Test level.

Hadlee began his Test career in 1973 and went on to take 408 wickets at an average of 27.26 runs each. He claimed his body could no longer tolerate the rigours of international cricket.

His final one-day international, however, ended in defeat.

**Blakey's masterful double century**

From Richard Streeton, Bulawayo

An immaculate 221 not out by Richard Blakey dominated the English A innings and left his side in an unbeatable position against Zimbabwe yesterday on the second day of the second international here.

England were 480 for five by the close with Blakey still as serene and masterful after nearly 10 hours at the wicket as he had been on his arrival.

Blakey, aged 33, has now made five first class centuries and this performance beats his previous highest score of 204 not out against Gloucestershire at Leeds in 1987. He first showed his appetite for big scores with a record 217 not out for Yorkshire Second XI a year earlier.

On this occasion his concentration never wavered as most of his runs came from strokes on both the back and front foot, on the off side. There was just a suspicion of a chance on Saturday when he was 26 and the ball total 165 when he glanced a ball from Shah perilously close to the wicket-keeper's left-hand. Otherwise he did not make a mistake as he faced 502 balls and hit 23 fours.

Above all, though, Blakey batted with the patience which has always been an aptitude possessed by the best Yorkshire bowlers and their close relatives. He was an arduous load to carry in the scorching sunshine on a benign pitch. Dures and Jarvis, who occasionally switched to spin gave little away and Traicos, the off-spinner, wheeled away like an automaton.

**England A: First innings**

D J Broadbent 1-12, 5-13, 7-14, 8-17, 9-17, 10-18, 11-19, 12-20, 13-21, 14-22, 15-23, 16-24, 17-25, 18-26, 19-27, 20-28, 21-29, 22-30, 23-31, 24-32, 25-33, 26-34, 27-35, 28-36, 29-37, 30-38, 31-39, 32-40, 33-41, 34-42, 35-43, 36-44, 37-45, 38-46, 39-47, 40-48, 41-49, 42-50, 43-51, 44-52, 45-53, 46-54, 47-55, 48-56, 49-57, 50-58, 51-59, 52-60, 53-61, 54-62, 55-63, 56-64, 57-65, 58-66, 59-67, 60-68, 61-69, 62-70, 63-71, 64-72, 65-73, 66-74, 67-75, 68-76, 69-77, 70-78, 71-79, 72-80, 73-81, 74-82, 75-83, 76-84, 77-85, 78-86, 79-87, 80-88, 81-89, 82-90, 83-91, 84-92, 85-93, 86-94, 87-95, 88-96, 89-97, 90-98, 91-99, 92-100, 93-101, 94-102, 95-103, 96-104, 97-105, 98-106, 99-107, 100-108, 101-109, 102-110, 103-111, 104-112, 105-113, 106-114, 107-115, 108-116, 109-117, 110-118, 111-119, 112-120, 113-121, 114-122, 115-123, 116-124, 117-125, 118-126, 119-127, 120-128, 121-129, 122-130, 123-131, 124-132, 125-133, 126-134, 127-135, 128-136, 129-137, 130-138, 131-139, 132-140, 133-141, 134-142, 135-143, 136-144, 137-145, 138-146, 139-147, 140-148, 141-149, 142-150, 143-151, 144-152, 145-153, 146-154, 147-155, 148-156, 149-157, 150-158, 151-159, 152-160, 153-161, 154-162, 155-163, 156-164, 157-165, 158-166, 159-167, 160-168, 161-169, 162-170, 163-171, 164-172, 165-173, 166-174, 167-175, 168-176, 169-177, 170-178, 171-179, 172-180, 173-181, 174-182, 175-183, 176-184, 177-185, 178-186, 179-187, 180-188, 181-189, 182-190, 183-191, 184-192, 185-193, 186-194, 187-195, 188-196, 189-197, 190-198, 191-199, 192-200, 193-201, 194-202, 195-203, 196-204, 197-205, 198-206, 199-207, 200-208, 201-209, 202-210, 203-211, 204-212, 205-213, 206-214, 207-215, 208-216, 209-217, 210-218, 211-219, 212-220, 213-221, 214-222, 215-223, 216-224, 217-225, 218-226, 219-227, 220-228, 221-229, 222-230, 223-231, 224-232, 225-233, 226-234, 227-235, 228-236, 229-237, 230-238, 231-239, 232-240, 233-241, 234-242, 235-243, 236-244, 237-245, 238-246, 239-247, 240-248, 241-249, 242-250, 243-251, 244-252, 245-253, 246-254, 247-255, 248-256, 249-257, 250-258, 251-259, 252-260, 253-261, 254-262, 255-263, 256-264, 257-265, 258-266, 259-267, 260-268, 261-269, 262-270, 263-271, 264-272, 265-273, 266-274, 267-275, 268-276, 269-277, 270-278, 271-279, 272-280, 273-281, 274-282, 275-283, 276-284, 277-285, 278-286, 279-287, 280-288, 281-289, 282-290, 283-291, 284-292, 285-293, 286-294, 287-295, 288-296, 289-297, 290-298, 291-299, 292-300, 293-301, 294-302, 295-303, 296-304, 297-305, 298-306, 299-307, 300-308, 301-309, 302-310, 303-311, 304-312, 305-313, 306-314, 307-315, 308-316, 309-317, 310-318, 311-319, 312-320, 313-321, 314-322, 315-323, 316-324, 317-325, 318-326, 319-327, 320-328, 321-329, 322-330, 323-331, 324-332, 325-333, 326-334, 327-335, 328-336, 329-337, 330-338, 331-339, 332-340, 333-341, 334-342, 335-343, 336-344, 337-345, 338-346, 339-347, 340-348, 341-349, 342-350, 343-351, 344-352, 345-353, 346-354, 347-355, 348-356, 349-357, 350-358, 351-359, 352-360, 353-361, 354-362, 355-363, 356-364, 357-365, 358-366, 359-367, 360-368, 361-369, 362-370, 363-371, 364-372, 365-373, 366-374, 367-375, 368-376, 369-377, 370-378, 371-379, 372-380, 373-381, 374-382, 375-383, 376-384, 377-385, 378-386, 379-387, 380-388, 381-389, 382-390, 383-391, 384-392, 385-393, 386-394, 387-395, 388-396, 389-397, 390-398, 391-399, 392-400, 393-401, 394-402, 395-403, 396-404, 397-405, 398-406, 399-407, 400-408, 401-409, 402-410, 403-411, 404-412, 405-413, 406-414, 407-415, 408-416, 409-417, 410-418, 411-419, 412-420, 413-421, 414-422, 415-423, 416-424, 417-425, 418-426, 419-427, 420-428, 421-429, 422-430, 423-431, 424-432, 425-433, 426-434, 427-435, 428-436, 429-437, 430-438, 431-439, 432-440, 433-441, 434-442, 435-443, 436-444, 437-445, 438-446, 439-447, 440-448, 441-449, 442-450, 443-451, 444-452, 445-453, 446-454, 447-455, 448-456, 449-457, 450-458, 451-459, 452-460, 453-461, 454-462, 455-463, 456-464, 457-465, 458-466, 459-467, 460-468, 461-469, 462-470, 463-471, 464-472, 465-473, 466-474, 467-475, 468-476, 469-477, 470-478, 471-479, 472-480, 473-481, 474-482, 475-483, 476-484, 477-485, 478-486, 479-487, 480-488, 481-489, 482-490, 483-491, 484-492, 485-493, 486-494, 487-495, 488-496, 489-497, 490-498, 491-499, 492-500, 493-501, 494-502, 495-503, 496-504, 497-505, 498-506, 499-507, 500-508, 501-509, 502-510, 503-511, 504-512, 505-513, 506-514, 507-515, 508-516, 509-517, 510-518, 511-519, 512-520, 513-521, 514-522, 515-523, 516-524, 517-525, 518-526, 519-527, 520-528, 521-529, 522-530, 523-531, 524-532, 525-533, 526-534, 527-535, 528-536, 529-537, 530-538, 531-539, 532-540, 533-541, 534-542, 535-543, 536-544, 537-545, 538-546, 539-547, 540-548, 541-549, 542-550, 543-551, 544-552, 545-553, 546-554, 547-555, 548-556, 549-557, 550-558, 551-559, 552-560, 553-561, 554-562, 555-563, 556-564, 557-565, 558-566, 559-567, 560-568, 561-569, 562-570, 563-571, 564-572, 565-573, 566-574, 567-575, 568-576, 569-577, 570-578, 571-579, 572-580, 573-581, 574-582, 575-583, 576-584, 577-585, 578-586, 579-587, 580-588, 581-589, 582-590, 583-591, 584-592, 585-593, 586-594, 587-595, 588

FOOTBALL: McCCLAIR CONVERTS MANCHESTER SIDE'S SUPERIORITY INTO COMFORTABLE VICTORY AS BASSETT'S MEN SUFFER STAGE-FRIGHT

# United grasp the cup of consolation

By Ian Ross

Sheffield United 0  
Manchester United 1

## FA CUP

The growing feeling that Manchester United's season of indifference on the field and axiomatic conflict off it is somehow destined to end in an uplifting triumph was strengthened in South Yorkshire yesterday afternoon.

Although both sides were showing the effects of long and difficult seasons, Manchester United produced what managers are prone to describe as "a professional performance" to reach the semi-finals of the FA Cup.

This season, United have suffered, at the expense of their League form, their more cohesive displays for the competition; yesterday was no exception. Despite an unflattering margin of victory, they won quite comfortably and their opponents could scarcely have protested had more defeat been transformed into embarrassment.

Sheffield United, a side which places a heavy reliance on the rudimentary and often naive tactics of Dave Bassett, their manager, were immensely disappointing in their most prestigious fixture since they last reached the sixth

**Ferguson admits relief**

Alex Ferguson admitted he was relieved to see Manchester United reach the semi-finals. "When you miss chances to finish the game off, you are always in danger against a team like Sheffield United," he said.

"It was a bit nervy, but you have to go through the pain to get anywhere in life and we are delighted to be in the semi's."

But the winning goal, scored by McClaire, drew complaints from Sheffield players, who claimed Robins was offside and then ran the ball out of play in the build up to the goal.

They were certainly too much for Everton on Saturday. At least on this occasion, Everton retained their dignity, generally fulfilling Harvey's promise of

achieved, also lent itself to the improvisation of Wallace and Hughes.

After a hesitant start which suggested briefly that an upset was possible, the visitors applied themselves expertly to the task of exposing flaws in the home defence.

Wallace, in particular, was well-suited to the job and had his finishing matched his intelligent approach play, it would have been he, and not McClaire, who would have left Bramall Lane wearing the mantle of hero.

The diminutive winger did, however, play his part in the game's solitary goal after 29 minutes. His corner was flicked on by Pallister at the near post and fell invitingly in the path of McClaire.

The Scot's first effort, a firm header, was pushed on to the face of the crossbar by Tracy, the Sheffield United goalkeeper, but he reacted swiftly to push home the rebound.

There was some controversy over the goal: Robins, the Manchester United forward who had won the corner, was clearly offside when he collected Hughes's pass.

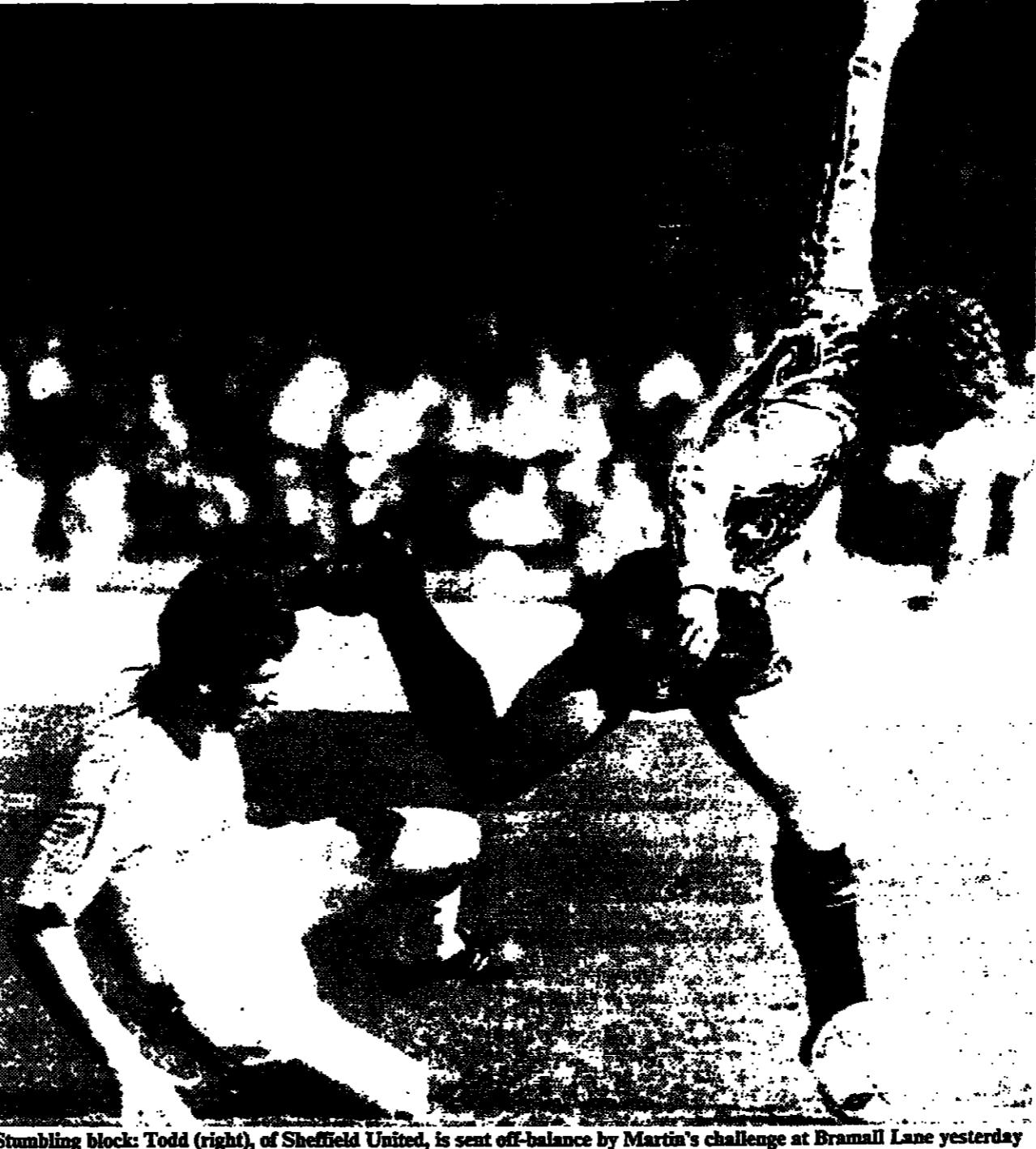
Had Agana and Deane performed with their customary efficiency in attack, Sheffield might have clawed their way back into contention, such was their opponents' lackadaisical approach in front of goal.

Although Leighton, the United goalkeeper, enjoyed a relatively untroubled afternoon, he would have been powerless to prevent an equalizer in the 74th minute had Agana's composure not deserted him at the crucial moment.

**NEFIELD UNITED** S Tracy; C Hill, D Barnes, R Booker, P Stenhouse, M Todd, C Bradstock (sub: I Bryson), J Gannon, W Preston, P Dean, D Whittlestone (sub: W Preston).

**MANCHESTER UNITED** J Leighton; A Vassell, M Murray, G Murray, S Bruce, M Robins, P McClaire, M Hughes, D Wallace. Referee: T Hobrook.

**Sheffield United** D Bassett, N Barnes, R Agana, P Sheehan, P Beagley, S McColl, G Sharp, A Coates, K Sheldy. Referee: R Miford.



Stumbling block: Todd (right), of Sheffield United, is sent off-balance by Martin's challenge at Bramall Lane yesterday

## Royle's master-class at Oldham

By Peter Ball

Oldham Athletic 2  
Everton 1

Oldham Athletic continue to advance on all fronts. With one visit to Wembley already assured, they took a giant step towards a second on Saturday, defeating Everton at the third attempt to earn an FA Cup sixth round tie with Aston Villa on Wednesday night.

On this performance, and especially on their own plastic pitch at Boundary Park, where they are now undefeated for 35 games, they can do so with every confidence, as one of Saturday's heroes, Ian Marshall, proclaimed afterwards.

They were certainly too much for Everton on Saturday. At least on this occasion, Everton retained their dignity, generally fulfilling Harvey's promise of

good behaviour, but that was about all one could say for them.

After the drama of the first game and the metamorphosis of the second, this one was decided purely on footballing merit, and the first division team were outclassed to an almost embarrassing extent. There is much more to Oldham than plastic patches.

Everton contrived their own downfall, two appalling mistakes by Neil McDonald – an underhit back-pass, which allowed Palmer to equalize, and a totally unnecessary tackle, which gave Marshall the chance to score the winner from the spot – giving Oldham their goals, but those mistakes were almost inevitable as Oldham won every individual battle.

Tactically, the second division team was in a different league, Royle staging one of the game's most brilliant and bravest

coups with his decision to line up with only one central defender, the excellent Earl Barrett, and use the two full backs to pull in to supply support when necessary.

A familiar formation to the over-forties, it was a hair-raisingly brave decision in today's game. It looked not so much brave as foolhardy, as McDonald sent Cottier through the inviting gap between Barrett and his right-back, Iain Irwin to clip the ball past Hallworth and put Everton ahead after 11 minutes of unremitting Oldham pressure.

Had Everton drawn the right conclusions from that, Royle's masterpiece might have been consigned to the scrap-heap by half-time, and McDonald might have ended the game happy instead of leaving as the villain of the piece.

But instead, Oldham just resumed the one-way tranc

towards the Everton goal. Milligan and Henry, a pair of terriers, hunting and chasing together, won the midfield to give their front men a constant supply. Only when Everton brought on Beagle, and pushed up for the last quarter of normal time, did they exert any real pressure.

Oldham responded immediately, resuming their normal half-back four, Warhurst coming on for extra time to take his regular place. And once Marshall put them ahead, they were simply irresistible. By the close, the margin might have been four or five.

**OLDHAM ATHLETIC** J Hallworth; I Irwin, A Barlow, N Henry, E Barrett, N Hallworth, N Adams (sub: P Warhurst), R Palmer, I Marshall, M McGinn, R Holden.

**Everton** N Southall, I Snodin, N McDonald (sub: M Murray), K Ferguson, N Keown, E Beagle, R Allister (sub: P Beagle), S McColl, G Sharp, A Coates, K Sheldy. Referee: R Miford.

## Palace edge indifferent tie

By Keith Blackmore

Cambridge United 0  
Crystal Palace 1

Two minutes after the start of this sixth round FA Cup tie, Taylor, the Cambridge forward, chose a long pass from Kimble into the Palace penalty area. With the confidence of a man who had scored in every round, he turned O'Reilly this way and that before shooting low past Martyn but beyond the far post.

We later found out that Cambridge's best chance of becoming the first fourth division team to reach the semi-finals of the FA Cup had already escaped them. But if they never again seemed so likely to score, nor for a long time did they seem likely to lose.

John Beck, the manager of Cambridge, said afterwards that it would have been impossible,

from the evidence of their meeting on Saturday, to guess that his team was from the fourth division and Palace from the first. This was an accurate assessment, although perhaps less of a compliment to his players than he intended.

The match was full of tension and excitement, but was without much cohesive play, and as the senior team, Palace must take much of the blame. They made little use of Gray in midfield and relied heavily on the offside trap and the long ball forward, tactics which were made all the harder

to watch by Thorn's ineptitude, met the ball on the volley, but his shot sailed over the bar, taking with it Cambridge's last hopes.

In attack, Wright was making his first full appearance for seven weeks and looked single-purposed, while Salako, however promising, was no substitute for the experienced Bright. Both were hindered by the excellent work

**Mercurial Daley's reminder to Robson**

By Dennis Shaw

Aston Villa 2  
Luton Town 0

As a late bombardment by Bobby Robson from all points of the compass, the mass of intelligence contains one possibility that would tempt the adventurous side of any football soul. Is there room on the dugout bench in Italy for a player who could, in any company, compete for recognition as the fastest winger in world football?

Already, Tony Daley has helped Aston Villa back to the top of the first division in pursuit of a League and Cup double.

Obviously, sheer speed alone would not be a persuasive argument for naming Daley in the England senior squad. However, the added speed to sharpen the selective appetite at the knowledge that the fast-faced Aston Villa forward can, after a 45-yard sprint to unhang any challenger score a bull's-eye on a tiny target.

This is precisely what he accomplished in a few exhilarating seconds on Saturday, leaving Keenor stumbling and flailing at fresh air, Allpress and Davy chasing his shadow and Cambridge unaware that he had left the gap which the ball found so unerringly.

Daley, in fact, hit the net just inside the post on the far side, while cutting in at full pace almost on the goalline.

Could he repeat that against Netherlands in Cagliari? It is a question that will surely cross the mind of the England manager. Luton Town, weakened by injuries and packed with inexperience, were distinctly not a World Cup-style test, as Platt confirmed when an error by Dyer let him through for Villa's second, and his own 2nd of the season.

Graham Taylor, the Villa manager, was not interested in being drawn on whether Robson, having named Daley in the B Squad against the Republic of Ireland, might take the next step and consider him for Italy.

Closer to his heart just now is the sixth round of the FA Cup on Wednesday, and the prospect of Daley using Oldham's plastic pitch like a running track. He is likely to score such extra-special goals each season, he has so much pace and capacity to get out of tight situations," Taylor said.

Such individual flair can be decisive when the important issues are being sorted out. By next Saturday night, with Liverpool on Cup duty yesterday and then out of League action until next Sunday, Villa could, with two wins, be in the FA Cup semi-finals and five points clear at the top of the League.

Should Daley help them to attain such a desirable situation, Robson might just be tempted to keep him among his options. ASTON VILLA: S St Johnstone, G Price, P McGrath, S Gray, K Keown, D Platt, J O'Reilly, G Cowans, G Williams. LUTON TOWN: A Chamberlain, T Bradstock, T Allister, M Kennedy, J James, J Taylor, J Ross, N McLean, K Hobson, I Dowes, C Hughes (sub: P Gray), K Black. Referee: J Martin.

## Lawrence throws caution to winds to save sinking ship

By Stuart Jones

Football Correspondent

Tottenham Hotspur 3  
Charlton Athletic 0

Lennie Lawrence has reached the point of desperation. Knowing that what he requires to protect Charlton Athletic's future in the first division is well beyond the means of his impoverished club, he is prepared to take a gamble. It is nevertheless a gamble, and it is nevertheless almost certain to end in failure.

He needs a goalscorer. "That has been our problem all season", the Charlton manager said on Saturday, "and never has it been more clearly illustrated than this afternoon. I'd like to go out tomorrow and buy a striker for £2 million but that is about as difficult as us landing on the moon."

He has tried every attacking permutation. At White Hart Lane he resorted to a couple of 18-year-olds: Minto, who was solely responsible for their one goal, and Bright, who was playing for the first time. Both were subbed for the second half and were hindered by the excellent work

of the Cambridge defenders, Daish and Chapple.

The decisive goal, when it came after 79 minutes, was slightly fortuitous. Gray swung over a corner, Leadbitter headed incoherently away, Barber turned the ball back into the penalty area and Thomas's weak shot rolled in at the corner.

Charlton might have lived to fight another day. In injury time, Cheetham wriggled free on the right and crossed. Dublin, who was playing despite his involvement in a serious motorising accident the previous evening, met the ball on the volley, but his shot sailed over the bar, taking with it Cambridge's last hopes.

In attack, Wright was making his first full appearance for seven weeks and looked single-purposed, while Salako, however promising, was no substitute for the experienced Bright. Both were hindered by the excellent work

of the Cambridge defenders, Daish and Chapple.

The decisive goal, when it came after 79 minutes, was slightly fortuitous. Gray swung over a corner, Leadbitter headed incoherently away, Barber turned the ball back into the penalty area and Thomas's weak shot rolled in at the corner.

Charlton might have lived to fight another day. In injury time, Cheetham wriggled free on the right and crossed. Dublin, who was playing despite his involvement in a serious motorising accident the previous evening, met the ball on the volley, but his shot sailed over the bar, taking with it Cambridge's last hopes.

As Lawrence contemplates the dread fate that is likely to befall his club, he might reflect on Tottenham's progress. Having bought Lineker to complement the absurdly expensive Steven, they were regarded before the start of the season as one of the realistic contenders for the title.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration. Nayim seemed to believe that for a pass to be authentic it had to be struck with the heel.

As Lawrence contemplates the dread fate that is likely to befall his club, he might reflect on Tottenham's progress. Having bought Lineker to complement the absurdly expensive Steven, they were regarded before the start of the season as one of the realistic contenders for the title.

In the opening half dozen games, the strikeforce contributed only two goals and Tottenham, having initially lost impetus, have never since convincingly regained it. Although Lineker is the most reliable striking mechanism for England, even he was unable to make the immediate impact required by the Charlton manager.

**CHARLTON ATHLETIC** S Thorncroft; G Hughes, P Ven, D Houghton, C Howells, G Mabbutt, P Walsh, P Giltinan, G Venables, G Lineker, P Allen, G McNamee, G Stewart, G Johnson, G Murphy, J Humphrey, M Reid, P Ricketts, J McLaughlin, T Caton, R Lee, P Williams, A McNamee (sub: G Watson, S Minto, P McNamee). Referee: P Don.

Tottenham, otherwise on the retreat, were not allowed to be above the ordinary until Charlton abandoned their security system and left Caton and McNamee to compete on their own with Lineker and his assistant Walsh. The outcome was as predictable as a race

between elephants and panthers.

Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third. There might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lawrence contemplates the dread fate that is likely to befall his club, he might reflect on Tottenham's progress. Having bought Lineker to complement the absurdly expensive Steven, they were regarded before the start of the season as one of the realistic contenders for the title.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.

As Lineker scored the second, with laughable ease, and Howells the third, there might have been more, as Terry Venables admitted, had his side, and the ineffective Gascoigne in particular, not indulged in over-elaboration.



The Times sets the scene for National Hunt's greatest occasion, the unique three-day Cheltenham meeting

## Kribensis favourite as forecast going swings in his favour

By George Rae

Kribensis has ousted Beech Road as favourite for the Champion Hurdle. Hills have Michael Stoute's charge leading the market at 2-1, with Beech Road, the reigning champion, friendless at 9-4.

The dry spell on the approach to the festival has left the going on the verge of good to firm, bringing in its wake a rash of new calculations. A week ago, when soft ground seemed the order of the day, Beech Road traded at 11-8 with Kribensis 4-1.

After walking the course yesterday, Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course, said: "It is a good, fast ground which I will describe officially as good but good to firm in places. The forecast is for some rain although not a significant amount."

"Once we start racing, the ground will dry more quickly because it then becomes open to the air. By Tuesday or Wednesday it could be good to firm all round."

Stoute does not share the view that Kribensis' task has been made easier. "Beech Road has got his act together this season," he said. "He's full of confidence and is sure to take a lot of beating. Kribensis is in great form, but champions are always hard to overcome."

Nor is there any hint of despondency in the Beech



Road camp. Jonathan Geake, son of Beech Road's owner, Tony, and assistant to Toby Balding, said: "I don't feel that he will be seriously inconvenienced by fast ground, but it does enhance the prospects of his rivals. I can also see Morley Street running a big race for us in the Champion."

Among the outsiders, Chris Grant will have his first Champion Hurdle ride on Kevin Morgan's Island Set, while Mark Dwyer partners the Jim Old-trained Mole Board.

Martin Pipe and Jenny Pitman are two trainers less than enthusiastic about the prospect of ever-drier ground. "I'm worried about the going," Pipe said. "It certainly won't help Bonanza Boy in the Gold Cup."

Pipe will lead off his challenge with Re-Release in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but has only one horse in mind as a banker: "Desert Orchid."

The Jenny Pitman stable, which has marshalled a 16-strong challenge, is also uneasy. "Mark and I will assess the going tomorrow," David

Stout, her assistant, said. "We would certainly take horses out if we felt it to be in their best interests, but decisions have to be taken on a day-to-day basis and according to the individual concerned. You have to remember, though, that the weather at Cheltenham is always unpredictable and it could all change again."

Richard Dunwoody looks the main beneficiary of the drying ground. Kribensis, his Champion Hurdle mount, is suited by less testing conditions, while Desert Orchid's already formidable Gold Cup chance will prosper further on fast ground.

There are 14 five-day declarations for the Tote-sponsored Gold Cup, with all the principals standing their ground.

The meeting has all the indications of producing a record betting turnover. "We expect to take £20 million over the three days with every race attracting £1 million," Mike Dillon, the Ladbrokes spokesman, said yesterday.

"If Desert Orchid wins, we expect to pay out around £2 million on the Gold Cup. People love to back him."

• Carrick Hill Lad, five times a winner this season, may miss Wednesday's £50,000 Sun Alliance Chase. "I'm not 100 per cent happy with him,"

trainer Gordon Richards said yesterday.

Stoute does not share the view that Kribensis' task has been made easier. "Beech

Road has got his act together this season," he said. "He's full of confidence and is sure to take a lot of beating. Kribensis is in great form, but champions are always hard to overcome."

Nor is there any hint of despondency in the Beech

Road camp. Jonathan Geake, son of Beech Road's owner, Tony, and assistant to Toby Balding, said: "I don't feel that he will be seriously inconvenienced by fast ground, but it does enhance the prospects of his rivals. I can also see Morley Street running a big race for us in the Champion."

Among the outsiders, Chris Grant will have his first Champion Hurdle ride on Kevin Morgan's Island Set, while Mark Dwyer partners the Jim Old-trained Mole Board.

Martin Pipe and Jenny Pitman are two trainers less than enthusiastic about the prospect of ever-drier ground. "I'm worried about the going," Pipe said. "It certainly won't help Bonanza Boy in the Gold Cup."

Pipe will lead off his challenge with Re-Release in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but has only one horse in mind as a banker: "Desert Orchid."

The Jenny Pitman stable, which has marshalled a 16-strong challenge, is also uneasy. "Mark and I will assess the going tomorrow," David

Stout, her assistant, said. "We would certainly take horses out if we felt it to be in their best interests, but decisions have to be taken on a day-to-day basis and according to the individual concerned. You have to remember, though, that the weather at Cheltenham is always unpredictable and it could all change again."

Richard Dunwoody looks the main beneficiary of the drying ground. Kribensis, his Champion Hurdle mount, is suited by less testing conditions, while Desert Orchid's already formidable Gold Cup chance will prosper further on fast ground.

There are 14 five-day declarations for the Tote-sponsored Gold Cup, with all the principals standing their ground.

The meeting has all the

indications of producing a record betting turnover. "We expect to take £20 million over the three days with every race attracting £1 million," Mike Dillon, the Ladbrokes spokesman, said yesterday.

"If Desert Orchid wins, we expect to pay out around £2 million on the Gold Cup. People love to back him."

• Carrick Hill Lad, five times a winner this season, may miss Wednesday's £50,000 Sun Alliance Chase. "I'm not 100 per cent happy with him,"

trainer Gordon Richards said yesterday.

Stoute does not share the view that Kribensis' task has been made easier. "Beech

Road has got his act together this season," he said. "He's full of confidence and is sure to take a lot of beating. Kribensis is in great form, but champions are always hard to overcome."

Nor is there any hint of despondency in the Beech

Road camp. Jonathan Geake, son of Beech Road's owner, Tony, and assistant to Toby Balding, said: "I don't feel that he will be seriously inconvenienced by fast ground, but it does enhance the prospects of his rivals. I can also see Morley Street running a big race for us in the Champion."

Among the outsiders, Chris Grant will have his first Champion Hurdle ride on Kevin Morgan's Island Set, while Mark Dwyer partners the Jim Old-trained Mole Board.

Martin Pipe and Jenny Pitman are two trainers less than enthusiastic about the prospect of ever-drier ground. "I'm worried about the going," Pipe said. "It certainly won't help Bonanza Boy in the Gold Cup."

Pipe will lead off his challenge with Re-Release in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but has only one horse in mind as a banker: "Desert Orchid."

The Jenny Pitman stable, which has marshalled a 16-strong challenge, is also uneasy. "Mark and I will assess the going tomorrow," David

Stout, her assistant, said. "We would certainly take horses out if we felt it to be in their best interests, but decisions have to be taken on a day-to-day basis and according to the individual concerned. You have to remember, though, that the weather at Cheltenham is always unpredictable and it could all change again."

Richard Dunwoody looks the main beneficiary of the drying ground. Kribensis, his Champion Hurdle mount, is suited by less testing conditions, while Desert Orchid's already formidable Gold Cup chance will prosper further on fast ground.

There are 14 five-day declarations for the Tote-sponsored Gold Cup, with all the principals standing their ground.

The meeting has all the

indications of producing a record betting turnover. "We expect to take £20 million over the three days with every race attracting £1 million," Mike Dillon, the Ladbrokes spokesman, said yesterday.

"If Desert Orchid wins, we expect to pay out around £2 million on the Gold Cup. People love to back him."

• Carrick Hill Lad, five times a winner this season, may miss Wednesday's £50,000 Sun Alliance Chase. "I'm not 100 per cent happy with him,"

trainer Gordon Richards said yesterday.

Stoute does not share the view that Kribensis' task has been made easier. "Beech

Road has got his act together this season," he said. "He's full of confidence and is sure to take a lot of beating. Kribensis is in great form, but champions are always hard to overcome."

Nor is there any hint of despondency in the Beech

Road camp. Jonathan Geake, son of Beech Road's owner, Tony, and assistant to Toby Balding, said: "I don't feel that he will be seriously inconvenienced by fast ground, but it does enhance the prospects of his rivals. I can also see Morley Street running a big race for us in the Champion."

Among the outsiders, Chris Grant will have his first Champion Hurdle ride on Kevin Morgan's Island Set, while Mark Dwyer partners the Jim Old-trained Mole Board.

Martin Pipe and Jenny Pitman are two trainers less than enthusiastic about the prospect of ever-drier ground. "I'm worried about the going," Pipe said. "It certainly won't help Bonanza Boy in the Gold Cup."

Pipe will lead off his challenge with Re-Release in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but has only one horse in mind as a banker: "Desert Orchid."

The Jenny Pitman stable, which has marshalled a 16-strong challenge, is also uneasy. "Mark and I will assess the going tomorrow," David

Stout, her assistant, said. "We would certainly take horses out if we felt it to be in their best interests, but decisions have to be taken on a day-to-day basis and according to the individual concerned. You have to remember, though, that the weather at Cheltenham is always unpredictable and it could all change again."

Richard Dunwoody looks the main beneficiary of the drying ground. Kribensis, his Champion Hurdle mount, is suited by less testing conditions, while Desert Orchid's already formidable Gold Cup chance will prosper further on fast ground.

There are 14 five-day declarations for the Tote-sponsored Gold Cup, with all the principals standing their ground.

The meeting has all the

indications of producing a record betting turnover. "We expect to take £20 million over the three days with every race attracting £1 million," Mike Dillon, the Ladbrokes spokesman, said yesterday.

"If Desert Orchid wins, we expect to pay out around £2 million on the Gold Cup. People love to back him."

• Carrick Hill Lad, five times a winner this season, may miss Wednesday's £50,000 Sun Alliance Chase. "I'm not 100 per cent happy with him,"

trainer Gordon Richards said yesterday.

Stoute does not share the view that Kribensis' task has been made easier. "Beech

Road has got his act together this season," he said. "He's full of confidence and is sure to take a lot of beating. Kribensis is in great form, but champions are always hard to overcome."

Nor is there any hint of despondency in the Beech

Road camp. Jonathan Geake, son of Beech Road's owner, Tony, and assistant to Toby Balding, said: "I don't feel that he will be seriously inconvenienced by fast ground, but it does enhance the prospects of his rivals. I can also see Morley Street running a big race for us in the Champion."

Among the outsiders, Chris Grant will have his first Champion Hurdle ride on Kevin Morgan's Island Set, while Mark Dwyer partners the Jim Old-trained Mole Board.

Martin Pipe and Jenny Pitman are two trainers less than enthusiastic about the prospect of ever-drier ground. "I'm worried about the going," Pipe said. "It certainly won't help Bonanza Boy in the Gold Cup."

Pipe will lead off his challenge with Re-Release in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but has only one horse in mind as a banker: "Desert Orchid."

The Jenny Pitman stable, which has marshalled a 16-strong challenge, is also uneasy. "Mark and I will assess the going tomorrow," David

Stout, her assistant, said. "We would certainly take horses out if we felt it to be in their best interests, but decisions have to be taken on a day-to-day basis and according to the individual concerned. You have to remember, though, that the weather at Cheltenham is always unpredictable and it could all change again."

Richard Dunwoody looks the main beneficiary of the drying ground. Kribensis, his Champion Hurdle mount, is suited by less testing conditions, while Desert Orchid's already formidable Gold Cup chance will prosper further on fast ground.

There are 14 five-day declarations for the Tote-sponsored Gold Cup, with all the principals standing their ground.

The meeting has all the

indications of producing a record betting turnover. "We expect to take £20 million over the three days with every race attracting £1 million," Mike Dillon, the Ladbrokes spokesman, said yesterday.

"If Desert Orchid wins, we expect to pay out around £2 million on the Gold Cup. People love to back him."

• Carrick Hill Lad, five times a winner this season, may miss Wednesday's £50,000 Sun Alliance Chase. "I'm not 100 per cent happy with him,"

trainer Gordon Richards said yesterday.

Stoute does not share the view that Kribensis' task has been made easier. "Beech

Road has got his act together this season," he said. "He's full of confidence and is sure to take a lot of beating. Kribensis is in great form, but champions are always hard to overcome."

Nor is there any hint of despondency in the Beech

Road camp. Jonathan Geake, son of Beech Road's owner, Tony, and assistant to Toby Balding, said: "I don't feel that he will be seriously inconvenienced by fast ground, but it does enhance the prospects of his rivals. I can also see Morley Street running a big race for us in the Champion."

Among the outsiders, Chris Grant will have his first Champion Hurdle ride on Kevin Morgan's Island Set, while Mark Dwyer partners the Jim Old-trained Mole Board.

Martin Pipe and Jenny Pitman are two trainers less than enthusiastic about the prospect of ever-drier ground. "I'm worried about the going," Pipe said. "It certainly won't help Bonanza Boy in the Gold Cup."

Pipe will lead off his challenge with Re-Release in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but has only one horse in mind as a banker: "Desert Orchid."

The Jenny Pitman stable, which has marshalled a 16-strong challenge, is also uneasy. "Mark and I will assess the going tomorrow," David

Stout, her assistant, said. "We would certainly take horses out if we felt it to be in their best interests, but decisions have to be taken on a day-to-day basis and according to the individual concerned. You have to remember, though, that the weather at Cheltenham is always unpredictable and it could all change again."

Richard Dunwoody looks the main beneficiary of the drying ground. Kribensis, his Champion Hurdle mount, is suited by less testing conditions, while Desert Orchid's already formidable Gold Cup chance will prosper further on fast ground.

There are 14 five-day declarations for the Tote-sponsored Gold Cup, with all the principals standing their ground.

The meeting has all the

indications of producing a record betting turnover. "We expect to take £20 million over the three days with every race attracting £1 million," Mike Dillon, the Ladbrokes spokesman, said yesterday.

"If Desert Orchid wins, we expect to pay out around £2 million on the Gold Cup. People love to back him."

• Carrick Hill Lad, five times a winner this season, may miss Wednesday's £50,000 Sun Alliance Chase. "I'm not 100 per cent happy with him,"

trainer Gordon Richards said yesterday.

Stoute does not share the view that Kribensis' task has been made easier. "Beech

Road has got his act together this season," he said. "He's full of confidence and is sure to take a lot of beating. Kribensis is in great form, but champions are always hard to overcome."

Nor is there any hint of despondency in the Beech

Road camp. Jonathan Geake, son of Beech Road's owner, Tony, and assistant to Toby Balding, said: "I don't feel that he will be seriously inconvenienced by fast ground, but it does enhance the prospects of his rivals. I can also see Morley Street running a big race for us in the Champion."

Among the outsiders, Chris Grant will have his first Champion Hurdle ride on Kevin Morgan's Island Set, while Mark Dwyer partners the Jim Old-trained Mole Board.

Martin Pipe and Jenny Pitman are two trainers less than enthusiastic about the prospect of ever-drier ground. "I'm worried about the going," Pipe said. "It certainly won't help Bonanza Boy in the Gold Cup."

Pipe will lead off his challenge with Re-Release in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but has only one horse in mind as a banker: "Desert Orchid."

The Jenny Pitman stable, which has marshalled a 16-strong challenge, is also uneasy. "Mark and I will assess the going tomorrow," David

Stout, her assistant, said. "We would certainly take horses out if we felt it to be in their best interests, but decisions have to be taken on a day-to-day basis and according to the individual concerned. You have to remember, though, that the weather at Cheltenham is always unpredictable



The Times on rugby union surprises in England; success for Melrose in Scotland; and a match of shared spoils in Wales

# Bath pay the price for errors caused by a busy schedule

By Peter Bills

Nottingham 12  
Bath 9

The news spread like wildfire around the country on Saturday night that Bath had been beaten. But while one defeat does not signal the end of the leading club side in England, it certainly raised some questions about the future of the game in its present form.

How much longer can the authorities demand so much in effort, time and commitment from players they insist remain rigidly amateur? Anyone studying the playing and training schedule of men such as Halliday, Hill and Guscoff since Christmas would blanch at such involvement. It is neither realistic nor fair for the authorities to continue to force quarts into pint pots which is what they have been doing with the fixture list for some time.

Bath made no excuses for a rank bad performance which may well have handed Gloucester the title. But defeat by a goal and two penalty goals to a goal and penalty goal was the classic case of a

team losing a match rather than the others winning it.

Bath's frustrations were compounded by their own inadequacy. Four free kicks and three penalties, all of them wind-assisted and awarded just yards from the Nottingham line, produced only Bath's goal.

Nottingham withstood the first half battering only

because Bath men had hands of concrete on the day and a thoroughly uncharacteristic lack of cohesion. Cronin, asked to stand down by the Scots, was no more than 50 per cent effective.

That is to take nothing away from a plucky Nottingham side which benefited from its coach's decision to omit those players involved in next Saturday's grand slam decider because he believed they could not possibly give their all in a league game seven days earlier. Thus, youth had its firing under Cook's shrewd guidance and Bath was

The brave toilers of Nottingham had been swayed away in normal circumstances. But Bath's borrowed time elapsed on Saturday. "We have had a lot of success and perhaps feel we have a divine

Reverend DJ Leslie (Manchester).

Referee: D J Leslie (Manchester).

## Northampton keep up the momentum

By Barry Trowbridge

Northampton 24  
Coventry 18

The commitment that filled Franklin's Gardens, both on and off the pitch, a fortnight earlier, that led to Leicester being sunk without trace in the quarter-finals of the Pilkington Cup, was evident again on Saturday. Northampton beat Coventry by a goal, three penalty goals and three dropped goals to five penalty goals and a dropped goal, in a bruising match, to confirm their position at the top of the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship.

With regard to league positions before the game, a Coventry victory could have resulted in either side – even if they had won their remaining matches – gaining promotion to the first division, and for a period in the second half, when the already depleted Northampton pack had to be further reorganized through the injury to Pockington, that looked disastrous.

But Steele was again in superb form with the boot (he kicked 15 points against Leicester) and pinned a 100 per cent record as his men rallied in the final quarter, slotting over a penalty and dropped goal – his third of the day – in the last 18 minutes of actual play to secure the points.

An analysis of scorers suggests that it was a game dominated by kicking, but that conclusion would not do justice to the way both sides – arguably the two in the second division best equipped for life in the first – were prepared to keep the ball alive. Indeed, the majority of points came from situations that arose when one or other side was put under pressure by open play.

## Pontypridd censured

Pontypridd will receive a letter of censure from the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) following their third sending-off of the season at Newbridge on Saturday. Steve Bain, their lock, was dismissed for kicking by David Herbert, the Neath referee, in the side's 27-9 defeat.

It will be the second successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.

On Saturday, Scarlett was sent to the sin bin

successive season that Pontypridd have been warned by the WRU.

This season Nigel Bezeni, a prop, was sent off against Leicester and Jimi Scarlett, another lock, was dismissed against Glamorgan Wanderers.



## EDUCATION

Edited by David Tytler

How a Midlands school is turning the soft options of art and craft, woodwork and metalwork into challenging design projects for big business

# Industry enjoys a touch of class

**A**s the experts debate the merits of grammar or the need to teach pure mathematics, a real revolution is taking place in the schools. Art and craft, always considered the soft option, is to be given the kiss of life as an essential part of the National Curriculum.

It will require a change of philosophy for the teachers who for too long have considered themselves subservient to the "proper" academic subjects. The new course will cover art and craft, home economics, computers, woodwork and metalwork but at the same time introduce entirely new ideas to the schools.

Children will be asked, for example, to design a car park or a check-out for a supermarket which will use all the disciplines. The finished article must look good, work and be cost-effective.

As most schools struggle with this idea, it has become a reality in Birmingham at the 800-boy King Edward's School. When Sir Trevor Holdsworth opens the privately financed £1-million design centre on Thursday much of the credit must go to the Chief Master, Mr Martin Rogers.

Mr Rogers, a former chemistry teacher and head of Malvern College before moving to Birmingham in 1982, decided that art and craft teaching was, to say the

least, in need of repair. He says: "Some very good work is done but there is also much which is humdrum. Much has been developed for boys and girls in the lower ability ranges. There is almost nothing aimed specifically at the above-average pupil. There is far too high an emphasis on 19th-century technology. Some work is done with glass fibre and polymers but the vast mass is with wood and steel and the scale of work is too large."

In September 1984 he persuaded the governors of the 400-

year-old Foundation of the Schools of King Edward VIth in Birmingham, which runs seven schools catering for 4,500 pupils, of the need for a new policy on teaching design.

He said: "Design education must contain two strands, the technological and the aesthetic. It must be concerned with the whole concept of conceiving, designing and making an article which fulfils a useful purpose. It must also be concerned with fulfilling a real demand — selling — and produced under strict financial control — costing."

Once the governors approved the scheme, Mr Rogers set about raising money. The breakthrough came when Sir Trevor, then chairman of GKN, donated £100,000.

How does Mr Rogers explain his zeal? "Industry is at last getting seriously concerned about education and forming links between schools. If we can develop the project properly, it will help to destroy the anti-industry ethos of the country which is very deep."

The centre is opening a week after the Government published its programme for compulsory lessons in technology as part of the National Curriculum for state schools. Most independent schools are embracing the National Curriculum on a voluntary basis. In technology, King Edward's will be among the leaders.

The confusion surrounding the new courses is typified by the various changes in title it has experienced over the last two years, from craft design and technology to design and technology and back to technology. Mr Rogers is unrepentant about sticking with design: "We may have to call it technology but design is the heart of the matter. In the past it has been too theoretical and has not been practical enough."

Theory for Martin Rogers was turned into reality with the appointment of Ray Willey, who joined the project in 1986 on a three-year fellowship, largely financed by the Smallpeice Trust. His task was to develop a new course in design for the school which would be available nationally and to assist in the design of the new building.

Mr Willey, who ran his own design business before becoming a teacher in Barnet, Hertfordshire, was also appointed head of the school's art and design department. The course he evolved is aimed at pupils of above-average ability, based on modern technology and modern materials.

The Gatsby Foundation, a Sainsbury family trust, financed further development with two three-year fellowships worth £70,000 to work on the Design and Industry Project, which also includes two state schools. One went to Mr Willey, the other to David Dickinson, a former Manchester teacher who joined the school as Mr Willey's deputy in 1987.

Before Mr Willey joined the school there were no structured courses in design with boys becoming involved in practical

ability, based on modern technology and modern materials.

Mr Willey's departure

scheme, matching ability and resources to the needs of the company.

It had been initially intended to include five industrial projects in the GCSE but this has not so far proved possible. In the meantime Mr Dickinson is writing simulated projects with the occasional "wild card", for example when a letter from an overseas company is received in Spanish.

He says: "The wild cards shift the ground from time to time to make it a bit more uncomfortable because that is what real life is like."

**R**ay Willey had first to convince the teachers and boys at King Edward's: "Some of the senior boys think we are the soft option but as they get into the process they find it intellectually demanding. We are teaching real-life skills, initiative and personal responsibility in making decisions for themselves."

The centre, built on various but connecting levels, has a seminar centre, design and modelling areas, workshops, a heat-treatment bay, art studio with wet work area, a dark room, soft modelling and ceramics area, a graphics room and computer network.

Mr Willey says it could be of considerable value to schools across the country but adds: "Schools are being bombarded with initiatives and there needs to be national co-ordination so that what we are doing here is tied in with what others are doing."

Splendid as the new centre is, a lot of work still remains. As Mr Dickinson says: "The main difficulty for all schools is going to be to get the philosophy right with all the different disciplines working together."

David Tytler



Serious business: Jeanette Durman in the ceramics workshop gives Jonathan Williams a little guidance

## 'We are teaching real-life skills'

year-old Foundation of the Schools of King Edward VIth in Birmingham, which runs seven schools catering for 4,500 pupils, of the need for a new policy on teaching design.

He said: "Design education must contain two strands, the technological and the aesthetic. It must be concerned with the whole concept of conceiving, designing and making an article which fulfils a useful purpose. It must also be concerned with fulfilling a real demand — selling — and produced under strict financial control — costing."

Theory for Martin Rogers was turned into reality with the appointment of Ray Willey, who joined the project in 1986 on a three-year fellowship, largely financed by the Smallpeice Trust. His task was to develop a new course in design for the school which would be available nationally and to assist in the design of the new building.

Mr Willey, who ran his own design business before becoming a teacher in Barnet, Hertfordshire, was also appointed head of the school's art and design department. The course he evolved is aimed at pupils of above-average ability, based on modern technology and modern materials.

The Gatsby Foundation, a Sainsbury family trust, financed further development with two three-year fellowships worth £70,000 to work on the Design and Industry Project, which also includes two state schools. One went to Mr Willey, the other to David Dickinson, a former Manchester teacher who joined the school as Mr Willey's deputy in 1987.

Before Mr Willey joined the school there were no structured courses in design with boys becoming involved in practical

ability, based on modern technology and modern materials.

Mr Willey's departure

means that the Lords cannot debate whether the Government can actually make the loans work. "He really does think that the Government has gone very much off the rails and that there is an increasing dogmatism in relation to issues such as the poll tax and student loans".

A political historian of some distinction, having published works on Soviet, American and British foreign policy and constitutional politics, Lord Beloff, like Mr Jackson, is a former fellow of All Souls. Others say he is "pretty brusque" — but there is no doubt that he speaks with conviction not clouded by ideology. His dissatisfaction comes from a passionate belief that universities should be left to run their own affairs.

Sam Kiley

# A Tory takes on the Government

## Lord Beloff is angry at what he considers to be an attack on Britain's universities



In combat: Beloff (left) and Jackson

parents and from scholarships. His motives for organizing and fostering discontent among Tory peers are two-fold. First, he objects to government plans to introduce top-up loans while freezing grants at about £2,300 a year (for those who are eligible).

He finds the plans to ban students from claiming income support and housing benefit particularly offensive because the extra £420 (£460 in London) provided by loans is likely to be wiped out by the loss of the rent subsidy, particularly in the south-east. He does not object to

loans in principle, but, like other traditional Conservatives, he believes the Government has missed a chance to build a loans system which, while not deterring students from taking a university place, brings private money into higher education for expansion.

Second, along with fellow historian Earl Russell, he objects to the use of "enabling legislation" — bills that give ministers powers to act but do not spell out what they will actually do.

One friend and colleague at Oxford said of Lord Beloff that the Government had "enjoyed his sense of constitutional propriety".

He thinks somehow that people should argue things through and take the

If you get into an argument with Max Beloff, you are likely to come away with a bruised ego. Lord Beloff, made a life peer in 1981, has a rigorous mind and a splendid line of insult. For the past two years, he has been harrying most of them at the minister for higher education, Robert Jackson.

A Conservative, he is angry at what he considers a philistine attack on universities, where he has spent his working life as a history and politics don. The Government's plans for student loans, he says, will penalize the poor, making university education even more distant for the working class.

Latterly, he has referred to Mr Jackson as the Pol Pot of higher education, and he told *The Times*: "The Government will not talk to people who actually operate things, and it thinks it can dictate from the outside. In higher education, Robert Jackson has been allowed to dictate."

He is something of a free marketer in higher education; the founding father of the fee-paying private University of Buckingham could hardly be anything else. He went to St Paul's public school and his university education at Corpus Christi, Oxford, was financed by his

01-481 1066

01-481 1066

# EDUCATIONAL

## COURSES

Continued From Facing Page

**LAW EXAMS?**  
Revision Courses to get you through!

HET's Intensive Revision courses are regarded as the best available — the quality of course materials and standard of lecturing is outstanding. The courses provide a concentrated review of the law and highlight important examination topics. Our tutors offer a host of hints and guidelines on exam technique. Courses run for two days per subject and all students receive our up-to-date bulletins and suggested solutions to past examination questions, as appropriate.

**LLB • BAR FINALS • SOLICITORS' FINALS**  
COMMON PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION  
For further details, please contact:  
The Registrar, (R.R.T.), Holborn School of Law, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1R 9RT. Telephone: 01-385 3377 (24 hr) Fax: 01-381 3377

**Independent Legal Education at its best**

CRIMINAL LAW CONTRACT LAW TORT GPI EVIDENCE FAMILY LAW CONVEYANCING

**ST. GORGE'S COLLEGE, LONDON**  
SECRETARIAL BUSINESS AND LANGUAGE COURSES  
For A-Level Students

MEET US ON STAND 91  
15-16 MARCH 1990  
BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE, ISLINGTON, LONDON

**WHICH CAREER SUITS BEST?**  
Professional Guidance and Assessment for all ages.  
15-24 yrs: Careers, Careers 25-34 yrs: Progress Changes  
35-54 yrs: Retire, 2nd Careers  
Full details in free brochure

**FRENCH COURSES IN FRANCE**  
Organised by French Government, the French Courses offer all over France. The courses are for students aged 16-19 years old to adult education students. Write to French Centre, 200 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1EE or phone 01-580 2204 office hours.

**ADVANCED COURSES**  
CARDIFF

MSc courses are offered in the following subjects. Financial support may be available for some participants.

Artificial Intelligence  
Civil Engineering  
Electrical & Electromagnetic Engineering  
Electronics Engineering  
Geotechnical Engineering

Maritime Studies  
Structural Engineering  
Systems Engineering  
Town Planning  
Transport  
Urban Planning & Developing Countries

Research for M Phil and PhD may also be undertaken in these areas.

Further information and application forms available from The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Design, Cardiff University, Cardiff CF1 3XF. Tel: 0222 847000 (Ext. 5762) or 0222 870757.

**EASTER 1990 REVISION**  
LONDON BRISTOL  
01-727 2797

Davies Laing & Dick

**LIVE AND STUDY IN YOUR TEACHER'S HOME LANGUAGE LESSONS**

The most original and certainly the most effective way to learn the language of your choice. Total isolation from your own language is the surest way to progress in learning a foreign language. This is guaranteed by Home Language Lessons since you LIVE and STUDY in your teacher's home NOT in a school.

Reservations Office, Department T, 2 Cecil Square, Margaret Street, C1V 1BD, England. Tel: 01-437 7700 Fax: (083) 223377 Tel: 94015388

Government Training Loan may be Available

## FALCON

A unique opportunity to study 'EFL' English courses in the prestigious London School of Economics (L.S.E.) this Summer with accommodation at the L.S.E. residential halls.

- \* Courses for 3 weeks, 6 weeks and 9 weeks
- \* Courses for age group 11-18
- \* Courses include day and weekend trips to various parts of Britain

For information and application forms, please write to:

**THE PRINCIPAL**  
**FALCON SCHOOL OF ENGLISH**  
JASODA HOUSE, 13 WATER GARDENS, STANMORE, MIDDLESEX HA7 3QE  
Tel: 01 420 6077, 01 954 9944 (8 lines)  
Fax: 01 420 6072

## M.B.A. COURSE FEATURE

will be appearing on

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

19th March 1990

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

18 March 1990

To advertise in this section please telephone

Claire Kaufman on 01 481 1066

The Sunday Times and The Times reach over 300,000 Businessmen

- the highest coverage of all quality national.

Source: BMRC 1988

## POSTS

### BELMONT SCHOOL

Co-educational Preparatory Day and Boarding School for 200 pupils.

**BURSAR**

Applications with a full C.V. are invited for this post, addressed to The Chairman, The Board of Governors, Belmont School, Holmby St. Mary, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6LQ.

Appointment will be from May 1990 or as soon as possible thereafter.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

**THE MOST IMPORTANT**  
decision in your child's life is in your hands.

**VICTORIA COLLEGE**

Approved by and registered with the Department of Education and Science as an independent Day School, Victoria College provides a first-class education for boys aged 11 to 18. The upper age limit will be raised from September 1990, and annually thereafter to GCSE 'A' level.

The school also provides:

- Well-qualified and caring teaching staff
- Individual tuition where necessary
- Transport
- Excellent school meals
- Lessons in Arabic language and culture
- Use of modern technology

If you wish your children to develop their full potential and thrive in a happy environment, write or telephone for a prospectus from:

**Victoria College**  
Woodstock Lane North  
Long Ditton  
Surrey KT6 5HL  
or telephone 01-398 2221

Closing date for applications Friday 20th April 1990

## LANCING COLLEGE

Senior School of the Woodard Corporation

Applications are invited for the post of resident College Chaplain to take up his duties from 1st September 1990, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Chaplain, who should be firmly rooted in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England, will be responsible for the leadership of Chapel Services and for the pastoral care of the whole School community. This challenging appointment should appeal equally to a priest experienced in parish duties or to one already in a school chaplaincy. The Chaplain will join a thriving Religious Studies Department and undertake a light teaching commitment mainly in the Lower School (up to GCSE) and with General Divinity in the co-educational Sixth Form.

Applications, including the names of two referees, should be made in writing to THE HEADMASTER, LANCING COLLEGE, BN18 0RW. Tel No. 0273 452217, and should reach him by Saturday 17th March.

## EDUCATION

# Survival of the smallest

Some small rural schools fear the threat of merger or of being suffocated by red tape, reports

Douglas Broom

In a tiny stone-built schoolroom high on a Pennine hillside, Andy Slater lading out gravy to the 69 children he calls "my family". Taking a turn with the gravy - and later in the lunch with the custard spoon, too - is part of his day as headmaster of Salterice Junior and Infant School, a small school clinging to existence and the side of the Shildon Valley in West Yorkshire.

It is a scene that 10 years ago seemed on the verge of vanishing forever. But, as he told the National Association for the Support of Small Schools (NASSS) annual meeting at the weekend, Mr Slater believes the tide is turning. Although small schools are still being closed, Mr Slater says the growing enthusiasm among townfolk for life in the country could prove the salvation of rural education.

"The children in this school used to come from families who had lived around here for 500 years," he says. "Now the area is packed with everybody - from solicitors to sales assistants, from men to clergymen - they all live up here. When the weather gets bad, the roads are impassable to two-wheel-drive vehicles. People moved away because they could not get to work or get their kids to school."

"Now it is four-wheel-drive land; everyone seems to have a Range Rover-style vehicle and parents, who choose our kind of school, can get their children here, whatever the weather."

Despite the growth in rural population in Calderdale, the local council, which is controlled by Labour on the casting vote of the mayor, has plans to close four rural schools - two of them in the next valley to Salterice. Mr Slater's school seems safe for the time being. When he took over as head in 1982, it had a closure notice hanging over it and was down to 38 pupils.

"Six hundred schools closed and six stayed open that year," he recalls. "We were one of the six." Now the school is full and there is no room on the waiting list until 1994. It also supports an active playgroup for 35 under-fives.

But just as some small schools appear to be winning the numbers game, a new threat to their existence is looming on the horizon in the shape of



Playing for time: headmaster Andy Slater and some of his "family" of 69 pupils in the Shildon Valley, West Yorkshire

the National Curriculum. Like other schools, Salterice faces the inevitable problems of overwork caused by the massive testing and recording apparatus the new curriculum will bring.

But small schools face the additional difficulty of convincing sceptical education authorities they can cope. Across the country, councillors and education officials have urged the need to merge small schools to enable them to provide the facilities demanded by the new curriculum.

Mr Slater argues this is unnecessary and dangerous to the education of pupils. "People keep telling us that the National Curriculum will have a bad effect on small schools," he says. "I happen to be one of the 4 per cent who believe that it will actually work. I am dubious about whether standards will rise but the curriculum itself can be made to work."

He concedes that there will be a massive growth in the amount of paperwork done by teachers, but he argues that in terms of teaching much of what the curriculum demands is already being done.

That there will have to be an element of formality is undeniable, but Mr Slater takes the view that much of the "sloppy" informality in which teachers indulged in the 1960s

was responsible for much of the bad publicity now suffered by schools.

"We are now reaping the whirlwind of all the infirmal stuff that followed the Flown report," he says. "Good teachers know how to strike a balance

between pupils and teachers."

At Salterice, Mr Slater teaches the top three years of juniors as one class of 21 pupils. Mrs Sue Walsh, who teaches the reception and first-year infants (class size 23), says: "I think we can do the teaching, but it's the testing and the paperwork that terrifies us. If we were actually forced to do everything the Government says it wants we would never stop writing assessments."

Miss Elaine Bateman (top infants and first year juniors, class size 25) agrees: "I do not think that anyone has really looked at it from the teachers' point of view in terms of what can physically be done."

Mr Slater believes that the very uniformity of the National Curriculum could damage the small schools' greatest asset - its ability to treat people as individuals. He says: "Children need structured teaching and the National Curriculum will give them that. But they also need to feel valued. We are like an enlarged family here. I regard all the children as members of my family."

His view is strongly echoed by Mrs Molly Styles, the National Co-ordinator of the NASSS. "People are

**If we were forced to do everything the Government wants, we would never stop writing assessments'**

and good teachers will be able to cope with the National Curriculum provided they are given support.

"But unless something is done to reassure people and to lighten the load of assessment, good teachers will become like rare butterflies. In big schools they will be sucked under."

So why is he so confident that the new curriculum will work? "Because so much of it is based in existing good practice. Teachers are being panicked, but the fact is that a lot of it is what they are doing already."

His view is strongly echoed by Mrs Molly Styles, the National Co-ordinator of the NASSS. "People are

Derek Fatchett warns that Britain is falling behind its competitors because of a poor education policy

There is now widespread recognition that jobs in this decade, and in the next century, will become increasingly brain-intensive. A Royal Society of Arts report, "Aim Higher: Widening Access to Higher Education", concluded that "competitive economies in future will depend on the success of the education system in producing a high average level of education".

For this country, the challenge set out in the RSA report, published last autumn and repeated in statements on education and training by both the CBI and the TUC, is one that we are less well equipped than our competitors to meet.

Our education and training system is bedevilled by two essential weaknesses. First, we will fail to persuade many more than three in 10 sixteen-year-olds to stay in full-time education. Secondly, we fail to provide a technical and vocational education that has esteem in its own right and which offers a system of potential qualifications leading to possible access to higher education.

Unless we remedy these two defects, it will be difficult for us to answer the employment demands made by the new technologies.

The challenge, then, is substantial, as we require no less than a transformation of education and training for the 16-20 age group. In the CBI's report, it argued that "to maintain and improve Britain's position in an increasingly competitive world, nothing short of a skills revolution is required".

The evidence for this conclusion is not hard to find. It is not just in our poor staying rates for students over 16 years of age, but it is in the skills levels provided on the shop floor. A study last year compared the skills level in West German clothing factories with that in Britain. About 90 per cent of the German machinists had completed a two-year apprenticeship while no British firm could point out a machinist with similar training.

In other words, we need to improve the provision and the quality of education and training for those aged over 16 if we are going to compete. In speeches and statements, min-

## Cost of failing to train for the future

isters seem to accept the need for change. Their actions, however, suggest otherwise, and to support this assertion a catalogue of evidence could be presented.

Take the resources committed by the Department of Employment to work related further education. At 1986-8 prices, the Government was spending £106.3 million in 1988-9, in 1990/91 it plans to spend £89.8 million, a cut of 16 per cent. A similar picture emerges in relation to its commitment to capital projects for further education colleges, a sector of the education system badly in need of additional resources.

For 1990-91, local education authorities put in bids of £186.1 million for capital spending on further education colleges. True to form, the Government responded with £65 million, just over a third of the estimated needs.

The most serious criticisms

of the Government, however, can be found in its own figures, published in the recent Expenditure White Paper, when it set out its targets for those aged over 16 in full-time education. In 1988-9 there were 642,000 students aged 16 to 18 in full-time education; by 1992-3 the Government is planning for 568,000, a reduction of 11.4 per cent.

Much of the decline can be attributed to demographic factors, but the figures also show that rather than seeing the falling numbers as an opportunity to push up participation rates, education ministers are prepared to drift with the demographic tide. This lack of ambition for our post-16 education system also raises questions about the Government's confidence in its own education reforms.

As with all sections of our education system, this Government lacks ambition. There are no clearly defined targets for post-16 provision. In a policy statement to be published today, the Labour Party will put forward proposals aimed at enhancing the status of the education and training of those over 16 years of age.

The approach can be summarized as having three main characteristics: proposals designed to increase participation in full-time post-16 education, to provide vocational and technical education of equal standard and status as that available for young people in most west European countries; and to encourage the employment of young people without appropriate training opportunities.

These proposals are consistent with the analysis put forward by the CBI, the TUC and individual employers. In fact, it seems that only the Government is now out of step. Perversely, it seems committed to a system which has failed to deliver at the level and the quality which we need.

It is stranded, supporting the unsustainable while our competitors move further and further ahead of us both in their achievement and their targets for education and training.

• The author is Member of Parliament for Leeds Central and a Labour Front Bench spokesman on Education.



81 1066

## EDUCATIONAL

01-481 1066

POSTS



**SOCIAL AND WELFARE OFFICER**  
SALARY £13 - 15,000

The ideal candidate should possess

- A BA or MA degree in social science.
- Also education teaching qualification preferred with social welfare in education.
- Ability to co-ordinate the teachers and group lessons.
- Ability to supervise social activities.
- Ability to look after social student welfare.

Please send a letter of application with CV to:  
The Principal, Falcon School of English  
13 Water Gardens, Gordon Avenue  
Stammore MIDDLESEX HA7 3GE  
TEL: (081) 954 9944 (8 lines)  
Fax: (081) 420 6072  
Closing date 30th April 1990

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

School of Business and Economic Studies

**CHAIR OF ECONOMICS**

Applications are invited for the Chair of Economics in the School of Business and Economic Studies in succession to Professor M.J.C. Surrey. Applications will be welcomed from candidates in any field of economics, including applied econometrics. The University is seeking an individual who has the academic and personal skills to provide leadership within the Economics section of a large multidisciplinary School. The salary will be within the professorial range.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, The University, LEEDS, LS2 9JT, telephone 0532 333888 (quoting reference number ST1/76). Applications (two copies) stating age, giving details of qualifications and experience, and naming three referees, should reach the Registrar not later than 20 April 1990. Applications from overseas may apply in the first instance by telex (550473 UNILDS G) or facsimile (0532 336017 or 0532 334125), naming three referees, preferably at least one in the United Kingdom.

The University of Leeds is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

PRESTFELDE

Shrewsbury (A Woodard Preparatory School for Boys)

The School Council invites applications for the post of

**BURSAR**

Details of the post, application forms, etc are available from: The Divisional Bursar (A), Woodard Schools, 14A The Square, Shrewsbury SY1 1LN.

Tel: (0743) 56038.

Closing date for completed applications 27th March 1990.

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Department of Transport Technology

**Ford Chair in Automotive Engineering**

Applications are invited for the above post, funded by The Ford Motor Company in the Department of Transport Technology.

The newly established chair reflects the growing strength of the relationship between Ford and the University, which emerged in the 1980s in 1987, of the Ford-sponsored MSc course in Advanced Automotive Engineering. The successful applicant will be required to provide academic leadership for this course and to stimulate and engage in Ford University research.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor S.J. Stevens, Head of Department, (Telephone: 0509 228404).

Salary will be within the professorial range (minimum £24,780). Further particulars and application forms can be obtained from the Registrar (Academic and General) to whom applications should be returned by 12 April 1990.

OSWESTRY SCHOOL  
OSWESTRY SHROPSHIRE  
FOUNDED 1407  
APPOINTMENT OF  
BURSAR

The Governors of Oswestry School invite applications for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors commencing in August, 1990 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Oswestry School is in three parts: Pre-Prep, Prep-School and Senior School. It is a co-educational, day and boarding and has 650 pupils overall. The School is in membership of IAPS and SEMIS.

The post offers considerable scope to a candidate with good organisational skills and financial expertise as well as energy and commitment.

Further details may be obtained by writing to: The Headmaster, Oswestry School, Upper Brook Street, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 2TL, to whom letters of application should be sent with a full Curriculum Vitae and the names and addresses of two referees should be submitted not later than 21st March 1990.

LANCING COLLEGE

Senior School of the Woodward Corporation

Required for September 1990, an enthusiastic and well-qualified teacher of DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY to participate in the planning of a new Design and Technology building, due to open in 1992, and in the introduction of new courses.

A background in Engineering and Design would be an advantage, but of greater importance are enthusiasm and commitment to the subject. The successful candidate will have every opportunity to develop his own speciality as well as participating in the teaching of all aspects of Craft Design and Technology to GCSE and 'A' level. Commitment to extra-curriculum activities will be essential.

Applications, including full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should reach the Head Master by Saturday 17th March. THE HEADMASTER, LANCING COLLEGE, SUSSEX, BN15 0RW. - (0273) 452213.

FALCON

THE SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

12 EFL QUALIFIED TEACHERS WITH SUBSTANTIAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

FLUENCY IN A SECOND OR THIRD LANGUAGE, E.G. CHINESE

ABILITY TO PLAN & DEVELOP OBJECTIVES WITH OUTSTANDING

ABILITY TO INITIATE NEW COURSES

9-12 WEEKS SUMMER AVAILABILITY

Please send a letter of application with C.V. to:

The Principal, Falcon School of English,

13 Water Gardens, Gordon Avenue, HA7 3GE, London.

Tel: (081) 420 6077, (01) 954 9944 (8 lines)

Fax: (081) 420 6072

FALCON SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

AIGLON COLLEGE SWITZERLAND

The independent (Overseas HMC) boarding school for 280 boys and girls (11-18) in the Swiss Alps wishes to appoint in September 1990 an

**ASSISTANT TEACHER OF PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS**

This is a post for a graduate, preferably with at least 2 years experience who is able to teach Physics to A Level and Mathematics to GCSE. Experience of computing and a willingness to take charge of the school's computing facilities would be an advantage.

Full involvement in the life of the school, including readiness to contribute as a resident member of staff, is expected. Applicants must be prepared to respond to the challenges of working in an international community in which individual and spiritual values are stressed.

Apply in own hand with CV, two referees and phone numbers (own and referee) to:

The Headmaster, Aiglon College,  
1885 Chesières-Villars, Switzerland  
Tel: (0141) 2535 2722  
Fax: (0141) 2535 2811

SELWYN COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Selwyn College Cambridge invites applications for a Trevallyn Research Fellowship tenable from 1 October

01-481 4481

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481



## Receptionist/Telephonist in the City

The London Futures and Options Exchange (London FOX) is one of the leading financial institutions in the City of London. Based in St Katherine Docks, the Exchange houses the soft commodity markets of Coffee, Cocoa, Raw and White Sugar.

A vacancy has arisen for a Receptionist/Telephonist to work in the busy and boisterous Reception area. A good public relations manner is essential in dealing with the numerous visitors to the Exchange.

The successful applicant will have at least three years reception experience, preferably with working knowledge of a Philips Switchboard EBX 8000. Salary circa £11,000.

Please send CV to Stephanie Halpern, Personnel Department, London FOX, 1 Commodity Quay, St Katherine Docks, London E1 9AX. Closing date for applications is Friday 16 March 1990. No agencies.

Maine-Tucker  
Recruitment Consultants

## FUN AND GAMES ... MILAN ... BELGIUM ... LONDON ...

Circa £12,500 + Free Tickets + Perks  
Mix business with pleasure ... working from SW1 for this BRILLIANT ... and EXPANDING Sports Sponsorship and Promotional Company. Here is the opportunity at last to use your French and Italian (conversations) in every day client liaison! As their valued and energetic assistant, you will be helping your two charming bosses to co-ordinate Existing Promotional Ideas for International Sporting Events - Tennis, Swimming, Rugby ... and a whole host of experience and 70/45+, don't be pipped to the post, if you are between 20 and 30... the race is on!

50 Pall Mall St. James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone 01-975 0548

Maine-Tucker  
Recruitment Consultants

IT'S A PARTY ... IN ADVERTISING!  
£10,500 - £12,000 + Perks

Is it really true what they say about Advertising ...? In this Friendly and Fast-moving West End Advertising Agency, you are a truly valued member of a Tremendously Talented team! As secretary to the "Number One", your days are Vigorous, Varied and Fun - with constant client contact ... organising his dizzy diary ... and ensuring the day to day, smooth-running of his office ... he depends on your organisational expertise! After a satisfying and successful day's achievements relax with a second Sunday ... You will be part of the subculture here, with 50 typing and some good experience Advertising is where it's at!

50 Pall Mall St. James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone 01-975 0548

DRAKE PERSONNEL

## GRADUATE OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXP?

As you will assist in the day to day running of this personable registered charity. Audio typing, fielding tel. calls & relief reception. If you are flexible, conscientious with good O or A levels and want a rewarding and secure position. Call Debbie Thirf on 01-623 0368

ARCHITECTS  
W1

Experienced secretary required for two partners. Typing 40 wpm. No shorthand! To work on own initiative. Salary £12,000 pa. 4 weeks annual leave.

Phone 724 2494 for details.

## ACME Appointments

## 4 S/H PA's

## £22K PACKAGE

£22K for nearly 4 years & 5/12

Director level in Corporate Finance (30/60 + WP etc).

Flexibility req'd for frequent paid Overtime Basis (£14,000 +

Major Sub + 5% bonus + paid

overtime + 10% bonus +

handed out 22 realistic

package.

Call Mrs May 01-623 3863

28 Cannon St, London EC4

A TRADITIONAL HOTEL IN W1

Requires an efficient secretary for general hotel correspondence. Good accurate typing ESSENTIAL and the ability of using initiative. Very good conditions and provided with duty.

Please telephone

The Personnel Manager

01-623 0543

## PERSON FRIDAY

Advertising company, Central London, well spoken self-starter. 16+ yrs experience.

Director level in Corporate Finance (30/60 + WP etc).

Flexibility req'd for frequent

paid Overtime Basis (£14,000 +

Major Sub + 5% bonus + paid

overtime + 10% bonus +

handed out 22 realistic

package.

Call Mrs May 01-623 3863

28 Cannon St, London EC4

## HOSPITAL S.W.3

c.£17,000 Neg.

Eminent Professor in charge of a new Research Unit requires a discrete and experienced PA.

Academic & Medical background, superb social, organisational & secretarial skills for a position of importance and interest.

1st & 2nd floor offices.

1st floor office.

2nd floor office.

## Tax credits for US corporation

Union Texas Petroleum Corporation v Critchley (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Beldam  
Judgment February 27

The provisions of the double taxation relief treaty negotiated between the United States and the United Kingdom entitled a US corporation receiving dividends from its UK subsidiary to be paid by the Revenue sums referred to as "tax credits".

The Revenue was, however, permitted to withhold an amount as a deduction from such payment. That deduction was to be calculated as 5 per cent of the aggregate of the amount of the dividend and tax credit after making allowance for the deduction.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the Crown and a cross-appeal by a US corporation, Union Texas Petroleum Corporation, from the judgment of Mr Justice Harman (*The Times* September 9, 1988; [1988] STC 691) that reversed in a determination of special commissioner and which ordered the Crown to pay £1.1 million to the corporation.

The corporation sought an order that the Revenue should pay to it an additional amount of £22 million and interest. The corporation's application to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

The corporation was a United States corporation not resident in the United Kingdom, that owned the issued share capital of English Economy. Between 1981 and 1984 the company

made seven dividend payments to the corporation totalling £380.7 million.

The advance corporation tax (ACT) that the company was required to pay under the provisions of Part V of the Finance Act 1972 in respect of those dividends amounted to some £163.2 million.

The corporation made claims for payment from the Revenue under article 10(2)(a)(i) of the Treaty scheduled to the Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (United States of America) Order (SI 1980 No 568).

Article 10(2)(a) provides: "In the case of dividends paid by a corporation which is a resident of the United Kingdom (i) to a United States corporation which . . . controls directly, at least 10 per cent of the voting stock of the corporation which is a resident of the United Kingdom paying the dividend, the United States corporation shall be entitled to a payment from the United Kingdom of a tax credit equal to one-half of the tax credit to which an individual resident in the United Kingdom would have been entitled had he received the dividend".

Advance corporation tax and tax credits had come into United Kingdom law by the Finance Act 1972. By section 84 a company paying a dividend became liable to pay ACT in an amount computed by reference to the dividend. ACT was available to be set off by the company against its corporation tax liability.

By section 86 persons or companies resident in the United Kingdom receiving dividends were granted a tax credit equal to the amount of ACT on the dividend. Foreign companies were not to be granted a tax credit.

Section 87(5)(a) provided that no assessment was to be made at basic rate income tax on the recipient of a dividend who was not entitled to a tax credit.

Relying on the provisions of the 1972 Act, Mr Bretnen's case was that under article 10(2)(a)(i) of the Treaty, the Crown was entitled to a deduction whenever it withheld from the payments to which the corporation was entitled 5 per cent deduction.

That argument was rejected. The sum payable to the corporation under article 10(2)(a)(i) was paid to it as a tax credit within the meaning of section 86 of the 1972 Act.

Alternatively, it was argued that the corporation was "entitled to a tax credit" so that the section 87(5)(a) exemption did not apply to it, article 10(2)(a)(i) allowed tax to be levied only by way of "deduction withheld . . . according to the laws of the United Kingdom".

As, it was said, no provision in our law existed for a withholding to be made when a dividend was paid, the withholding provision in the article was of no effect. The draftsmanship of the Treaty did not get an alpha plus marking.

Nevertheless, the deduction provisions were not to be construed as having no effect. The sense of the provision was clear if the words "withheld" and "according to the laws of the United Kingdom" were omitted from it.

It was preferable to reject certain words so as to give the deduction provisions effect rather than to reject the whole provision.

The Crown's concern was with mathematics — how, if the 5 per cent deduction could be made the amount of it was to be calculated.

In the instant case the actual amount of the premium paid was £1,632,000.

The judge had been wholly justified in holding that the council had no reason to believe that the appellant would be in the vicinity of the trench.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appellant had argued that once it was established that precautions had been taken to stop people getting to the land on which the trench was a danger, it followed that the precautions and reason to believe someone was likely to come into the vicinity of the danger concerned.

Mr Lawrence West for Mr White, Mr Arthur Stevenson for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS, agreeing, said that consideration of whether an occupier believed a person was likely to come into the vicinity of the danger and paragraph (b) was fulfilled and a duty to the trespasser established.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

Lord Justice Beldam delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Robbins Oliffe & Blake Lapthorn for Clark & Clark, St Albans; Gepp & Sons, Chelmsford.

Solicitor: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Malcolm R. Brown.

Mr Robert Cannith, QC, Mr

believe that the other . . . may come into the vicinity of the danger."

"(4) Where, by virtue of this section, an occupier of premises owes a duty to another in respect of such a risk, the duty is to take such care as is reasonable in the circumstances of the case to see that he does not suffer injury on the premises by reason of the danger concerned."

Mr Lawrence West for Mr White, Mr Arthur Stevenson for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appellant had argued that once it was established that precautions had been taken to stop people getting to the land on which the trench was a danger, it followed that the precautions and reason to believe someone was likely to come into the vicinity of the danger concerned.

In the instant case the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

## Duty to trespasser in danger

White v St Albans City and District Council

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Beldam  
Judgment March 2

Whether an occupier of land had reasonable grounds for believing that a trespasser might come into the vicinity of a danger on the land and was therefore under a duty to the trespasser to be determined by considering the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury occurred.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by John Michael White against a decision of Judge Lovegrove, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, which rejected his claim against St Albans City and District Council for damages for personal injuries sustained when he fell into a 12ft trench while walking across a fenced-off council property while taking a short cut to a car park.

Section 1 of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1984 provides: "(3) An occupier of premises owes a duty to another (not being his visitor) . . . if . . . (b) he knows or has reasonable grounds to

believe that the other . . . may come into the vicinity of the danger."

"(4) Where, by virtue of this section, an occupier of premises owes a duty to another in respect of such a risk, the duty is to take such care as is reasonable in the circumstances of the case to see that he does not suffer injury on the premises by reason of the danger concerned."

Mr Lawrence West for Mr White, Mr Arthur Stevenson for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appellant had argued that once it was established that precautions had been taken to stop people getting to the land on which the trench was a danger, it followed that the precautions and reason to believe someone was likely to come into the vicinity of the danger concerned.

In the instant case the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection 1(4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be answered by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the actual state of affairs was that the fence was insufficient to stop all the elderly and disabled from entering the land. However, there was no evidence that people tended to use the land as a short cut to the car park.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory





## ECONOMIC VIEW

## Why Major must keep his tax reform nerve

Another week and another fall in the pound. That is what we saw in the past seven days and what may be in prospect again this week. It is all very disruptive to John Major's plans for next week's Budget, but Mr Major is no stranger to temporary fluctuations in the exchange rate.

He arrived at Number 11 in the middle of a political crisis and saw the pound fall 4½ per cent during the next few months. During that time he held his nerve, continuing to attribute sterling's weakness to temporary political uncertainties as Mrs Thatcher weathered the leadership challenge and the shock waves from Mr Lawson's resignation gradually died away. He was rewarded by a gradual recovery in the currency to just above the level at which the previous Chancellor resigned before it fell almost immediately under the impact of the present state of selling.

While the political fortunes of the Government remain as rocky as they are now, there are limits to how far the pound is likely to recover. This week has several statistical hurdles to be negotiated, including retail sales, average earnings and on Friday the public sector debt repayment. But while he should certainly heed the underlying condition of the currency, Mr Major's task is to take the medium-term view and let the day-to-day squalls in the foreign exchange market blow themselves out.

The Chancellor also has certain negative responsibilities in framing his Budget, as well as positive duties. Principal among them is the need to conserve the progress on tax reform made under Mr Lawson.

Tax reform involves not only careful economic analysis but also a delicate

balancing of political forces. Over time the political lobbies have an opportunity to launch counter-attacks. This is happening on a grand scale both in the US and Japan, where far-reaching tax reforms introduced by previous administrations are steadily being unpicked. In the US, the capital gains tax proposals introduced under Mr Reagan are being softened under President Bush to mollify a vocal group of supporters. In Japan, the widely disliked sales tax is being progressively neutered with changes due next month so that the switch in emphasis from taxes on income to taxes on spending may end up being more of an aspiration than a reality.

Mr Major must be on his guard against the erosion of progress towards a level playing field made by Mr Lawson.

The CBI's call for investment allowances for industry would be a clear step back from the principle of fewer allowances and lower rates which has guided the present Government's policy so far. Likewise, the institutional savings lobbies will be eager to rebuild the privileges reduced over the past few years. A rise in the ceiling for mortgage tax relief would be particularly bizarre when the main existing tax on property — the rates — is about to be replaced by the poll tax.

The biggest trap of all is the poll tax itself. Right or wrong in principle, the Government must now make the best of it. Ministers have already mortgaged a great deal of tax revenue to ameliorating the most painful effects of the tax, without any discernible political benefit. If they are now to spend a whole lot more, they may sacrifice the chance of cutting taxes in an election year to fighting a rearguard action on the poll tax, which they can never win.

## Japan under G7 pressure

The decision to hold a ministerial meeting of the Group of Seven industrial countries in Paris on April 7, just one month before the regular meeting in Washington, is a little puzzling. The meeting's agenda is likely to centre on economic co-ordination and Eastern Europe. But at least one leading participant, US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, has said he sees no immediate need for discussions on economic co-ordination or events in currency markets. Nor is it very obvious what responsibilities most of the G7 nations, apart from West Germany, have towards Eastern Europe.

The main tension between the leading countries is the desire of the US and Germany to persuade Japan to raise its interest rates. Yet weakness is potentially inflationary and could threaten Japan's progress towards current account balance, but neither the US nor Germany is prepared to bring down its

own interest rates, which both believe would risk domestic inflation.

What they hope to persuade Japan is that in today's global markets the Japanese must be prepared to move their rates more often. For its part, the Japanese government wants some assurance that if it were to move, it would not be immediately trumped by an increase in Germany.

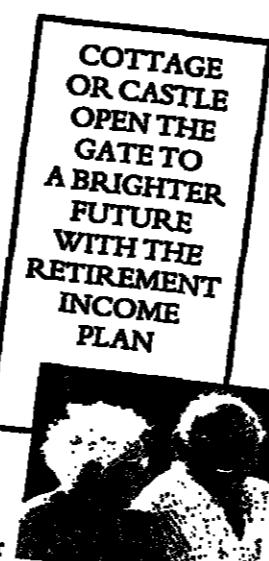
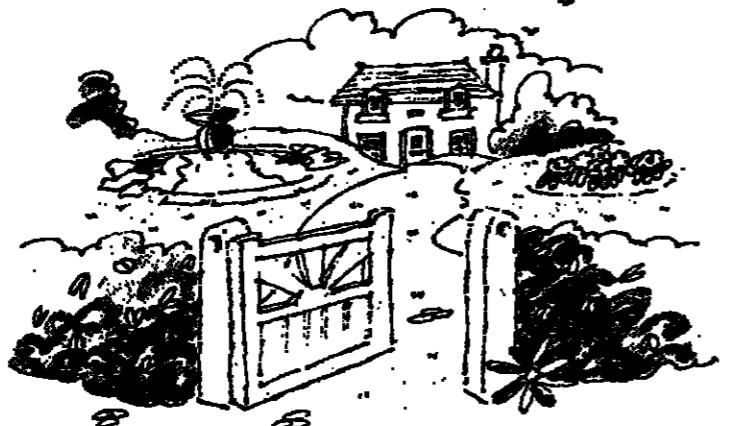
These matters are more likely to be sorted out at a meeting of the "G3" — the US, Japan and Germany — or two meetings of G2, rather than in the wider forum of G7. The April G7 meeting perhaps has more to do with the fact that the relevant personnel will be gathered in Paris anyway to launch the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development than with any useful work they can do.

Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

On the other hand, these matters are more likely to be sorted out at a meeting of the "G3" — the US, Japan and Germany — or two meetings of G2, rather than in the wider forum of G7. The April G7 meeting perhaps has more to do with the fact that the relevant personnel will be gathered in Paris anyway to launch the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development than with any useful work they can do.

In a television interview yesterday, Mr Elliott said Elders plans to release a com-

## RETIRED OR PLANNING RETIREMENT? HOMEOWNER? NEED EXTRA INCOME?



Fisher Prew-Smith have designed the Retirement Income Plan to release the equity in your property and provide you with a regular source of income, with cash advance if required.

After all — we could all do with a little extra income, perhaps to pay for the luxuries in life, or visit far-off loved ones.

The Retirement Income Plan provides you with that independence.

For further information telephone Denise on 0704 500666.

REMEMBER WE'RE HERE TO HELP. Why not telephone now?

I would like further information regarding this Scheme:-

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Current Income (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate value of property \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to proceed. Please send application forms  I would like to discuss this matter further

Please reply to: Mrs Denise Hammar

7/12/90



**FISHER PREW-SMITH**  
164 LORD STREET SOUTHPORT MERSEYSIDE PR9 0QA

Telephone: 0704 500666

RETIREMENT INCOME PLAN · RETIREMENT INCOME PLAN

## Depository site taken off the market



From £100 million to £40 million: The 10-acre Harrods Depository with planning consent for 300 residential apartments

## Property slide hits Harrods

By Matthew Bond

House of Fraser has run into difficulties with its plans to make large-scale property disposals, the proceeds of which would bring down the group's heavy borrowings.

The company, owned by the Fayed brothers, has long-term plans to dispose of both the Harrods Depository, the riverside landmark next to Hammersmith Bridge in west London, and the Harrods sports club, less than half a mile away in Barnes.

Until recently the sale of these properties looked to offer the brothers the chance to recover a substantial part of the £625 million they spent on acquiring the Harrods group. Both properties were quietly offered for sale by Savills, the property agent, last year.

The 10-acre depositary site,



Up for sale at £6.5 million an acre: The 20-acre Harrods sports club in metropolitan open land could be a speculative buy

with its planning consent for up to 300 apartments, has long been coveted by developers. The site is vacant, after the £25 million development of a new warehouse at Osterley.

But the collapse in the London residential market had the effect of slashing the expected price from about £10 million an acre to a guide price of £40 million for the entire site, or £4 million an acre.

The depositary, has now been withdrawn from sale.

The planning authorities have insisted that the two sites

share the same access route.

House of Fraser will now wait for Thames Water to resolve its planning difficulties before pushing ahead with the sale.

The 20-acre Harrods sports ground remains for sale.

It is surrounded on three sides by leafy, quality homes, but is zoned metropolitan open land and would be regarded as a speculative purchase. So far, it has failed to attract an offer at the guide price of £6.5 million an acre.

Private shareholders therefore have up to 25 per cent and many are local and fiercely loyal to Harrods. If the bid fails, Harrods will point to the judgement of the market-place as evidence that the Fayed brothers should cease to assimilate them.

But the Saudis are more likely to use their large minority holding to put pressure on the company. They already have a majority of the convertible shares, whose gradual conversion will strengthen their hold, and they will continue to buy the 2 per cent a year they are allowed to purchase in the market.

Private shareholders therefore have up to 25 per cent and many are local and fiercely loyal to Harrods. If the bid fails, Harrods will point to the judgement of the market-place as evidence that the Fayed brothers should cease to assimilate them.

But the Saudis are more likely to use their large minority holding to put pressure on the company. They already have a majority of the convertible shares, whose gradual conversion will strengthen their hold, and they will continue to buy the 2 per cent a year they are allowed to purchase in the market.

## Elders debt cut to Aus\$1bn

Sydney (Reuter) — Mr John Elliott, the chairman of Elders IXL, said the group's debt had been reduced by about Aus\$900 million (£422.5 million) to Aus\$1 billion in recent months.

On Thursday, Elders announced a restructuring to turn the conglomerate into a single-focus brewer called Foster's Brewing Group, float off its aribusines, and sell a further Aus\$2.5 billion of peripheral assets.

He added that the debt of Harlin Holdings, a firm owned by Mr Elliott and other Elders executives, which has 55.8 per cent of Elders, will be

cut to Aus\$1.3 billion from Aus\$1.9 billion, via Elders' proposed Aus\$1 per share capital return, funded by asset sales.

On the same programme, Mr Duncan Andrews, a director of Australian Ratings, said Elders "still has a long way to go" before the credit rating agency will change its rating.

"We'd like to see some more runs on the board before we look at the ratings," he said.

Last September, Australian Ratings cut Elders' credit rating to BB from A minus.

## Ridley faces questions over convicted broker

Mr Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, is taking up the case of constituents who have lost money in broker bonds managed by Adrian Ward, a convicted diamond smuggler.

He has tabled a question for Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, inviting the Securities and Investments Board and the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Association to explain why Ward was allowed to trade as an interim authorized finan-

cial adviser for two years. It is believed that the regulators were told about the conviction, but allowed him to continue trading instead of issuing a suspension order to protect the interests of investors.

Ward and Money Management Financial Services of Wickford, Essex, his company, were finally put out of business last month after his application to join Fimbra, made two years previously, was turned down.

## Receiver goes in at Lockton

By Philip Pangalos

Lockton Shops, the troubled hi-fi and video retailer chain which was set up under the Business Expansion Scheme in the spring of 1987, has called in the receiver after losing more than £6 million.

Many of the 1,400 shareholders in Lockton, which had funds of £9.34 million at launch, had called two extraordinary meetings — one to be held today and one on Friday — to discuss the company's proposed sale of its last substantial asset, a freehold

property in Brentwood, Essex, for £1.1 million.

Mr Peter Dunn, a senior partner of Latham Crossley & Davis, the receiver, said: "The crash is due to difficulties in this particular retail sector, plus very high start-up costs and an unproven retail formula. I am putting up the seven retailing units for sale as a going concern and expect a high return to the creditors."

Lockton, owned and managed retail outlets under two names, Wires and Auditions.

However, Mr Dunn said: "I am still confident of selling the company as a going concern."

However, high interest rates, slower spending and the high cost of retail shop leases contributed to the failure.

Lockton had a turnover of about £6 million and about 50 staff at seven shops. To April last, it incurred losses of £1.5 million, which grew by £2.5 million in the 44-week period to February 3. The group also wrote off £3.6 million as extraordinary items.

However, Mr Dunn said: "I am still confident of selling the company as a going concern."

Weight is not all

The DTI report into the House of Fraser affair, which runs to 752 pages, plus another 12 for the index, may be the heaviest to have landed on City desks for some time — but even at an overall cost of £1.5 million it is, I am informed, not the most expensive. The DTI declines to break down the fees due solely to the inspectors — two are always appointed, one a QC and the other an accountant — and says that the £1.5 million figure includes all support staff. The record for the DTI's costliest report to date is still — but only just — held by the 1986 inquiry into Guinness which, at the last count, had notched up expenses of £1.66 million. And that, the DTI points out, is only for an interim report, since the final Guinness report will not see the light of day until all criminal proceedings are out of the way. But given that the HOF tone is on a sale in time, it may be some time before a copy is due to be issued in May.

One-arm Baltic

Glasnost is reaching as far as

the amusement arcade in

industry. International Gaming

Management of Minneapolis

has signed a contract with

Soviet/American Trade

Consultants (Sato) to provide

video poker and slot machines

for the Viru Hotel, Tallinn, Estonia. The Estonians are taking 32 machines expected

to generate up to \$1 million over three years. Under

the agreement, the local govern-

ment will receive 50 per cent of

the proceeds from the

equipment, with Sato and

International Gaming 25 per

cent each. The equipment is

due to be installed in May.

## Ahoy mates

The ultimate capitalist, Virgin

boss Richard Branson, is plan-

ning a voyage to the Eastern

bloc. He is seeking a Moscow

location, he told a Los Angeles

press conference. Skating over

the fact that, for a short time,

Virgin was a public company,

he described it as "the last of

the independents," and then

let slip he had turned down \$1

billion for the record business

by a public competitor.

## Hartwell win over Jameel in doubt

By Martin Waller

The Jameel Group, the Saudi Arabian concern, looks likely to fall short of its 50 per cent target in its plan to take over Hartwell, the Oxford motor distributor, when the bid closes at 1 pm today.

So far, Jameel has reached almost 37 per cent in a shareholding spree that started from a 22 per cent stake on the day of the bid. If the bid fails, the Saudis will have been shut out by a powerful combination of four big institutional shareholders and Hartwell's own pension fund.

TEMPOS

# BAA tames ADT, its awkward passenger

Michael Ashcroft seems to have met his match in the shape of Sir Norman Payne, chairman of BAA. Mr Ashcroft's ADT, the Bermuda-based security and car auction group, promises to explain this month the strategy behind its 8.2 per cent stake in BAA.

So far, the game is even, with Mr Ashcroft stung on perhaps \$20 million of paper profits and Sir Norman branding Government assurances that BAA's golden share remains intact. Time, however, is on Sir Norman's side. If BAA shares remain static, ADT's paper profit could be cut in a year by the \$230 million carrying costs.

If ADT fails to persuade investors that BAA's riches can be unlocked quickly, BAA shares will suffer, taking ADT's profit with them.

Ahead lies a clash of wills between Sir Norman, a long-term strategist, and Mr Ashcroft, who has more pressing deadlines. ADT may decide to convene an extraordinary meeting to press for board changes or even seek a change to the company's articles, including the 15 per cent limit on individual shareholdings. Mr Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, who sees BAA as quite different from Jaguar, can, however, veto such a change.

Mr Ashcroft's best line might be to devise means of enhancing shareholder value

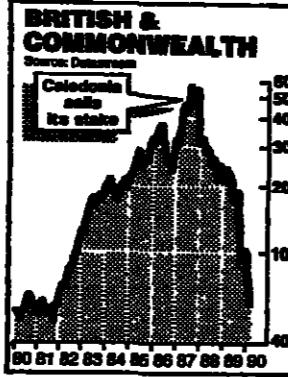
and persuade other investors to back them. BAA, like BAT, might then feel the need to act.

A property revaluation might lift assets per share to about 360p and some analysts see value of up to 500p a share. But BAA has the Lynton property group in-house for property expertise, and whether ADT can boost growth is yet to be proved.

BAA shares are up on 11 times earnings for the year just ended. They are excellent long-term value at their current 394p, but setbacks for ADT would hit them short-term. Watch for buying opportunities.

## Caledonia Investments

News that British & Commonwealth has sold its



Pointing to a long-term view, Sir Norman Payne, BAA, is set for a clash of wills with ADT

shares did not follow B&C's down and remained among the best performers of the 1980s. Unfortunately, that does not guarantee that Caledonia will be an exciting vehicle in the 1990s. After all, why buy shares yielding 4 per cent in a family-controlled company when the bulk of its assets are held in cash or fixed-interest securities?

One answer is that it takes time for the conservative investments favoured by Caledonia to prove their worth. A

not been sufficient to discourage Sir Ron Brierley's IEP

Securities from building up a 10 per cent stake in Caledonia. Investors able to take the long view should do so, and pick up Caledonia on the market's weaker days.

## Compass

It is some years since a company has managed, in the course of a takeover bid, to paint itself into as difficult a corner as that from which the

offer under the Compass four-for-five shares offer.

The bid, nakedly opportunistic, is Compass's most ambitious move since its market flotation in December 1988.

The float was a flop, attracting applications for 68 per cent at the offer price of 245p. But the shares have made steady progress and management has attracted a strong City following.

Before the 35p slump associated with the Sketchley offer the shares were selling on almost 13 times prospective earnings, assuming pre-tax profits of £29.5 million in the current year to end-September.

The Compass management has shown the kind of skills needed to run a widely spread service business such as Sketchley.

Just 30 per cent of Sketchley's profits come from its 500 laundries and heel bars. As important is its linen and workwear rental operation, which would dovetail neatly with Compass's healthcare business, whose contract for textile rentals would be worth some £18 million a year to Sketchley.

Compass is not going to overpay. Sketchley, having rejected an approach worth at the last count £127 million, now has the embarrassing task of seeing just how close to that figure it can tempt the latest bidder.

## P&D lifts Blue Arrow payments

By George Sivell

Large institutional investors are forcing UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, to pay more compensation over the disastrous £837 million Blue Arrow cash call.

The institutions, represented through the revived Institutional Shareholders' Committee, were offered by County NatWest, the merchant bank, a half-share of £83 million, based on 40p a share for 220 million Blue Arrow shares placed after the failure of the cash call.

Phillips & Drew at first hesitated over paying any compensation before the trials of 11 Phillips & Drew and County NatWest employees facing criminal charges over the rights issue, believing settling would be prejudicial to the court cases.

However, after pressure, the broker offered to pay 25 per cent, and then 40 per cent of the compensation package. Now, threat of withdrawals of business by large investors has forced it to consider paying the full £44 million half-share of the compensation.

## Clayhite deal

Clayhite, the investment and property group, has bought a 70 per cent stake in Magna-power Group for £525,000, with the remaining 30 per cent held by the existing management. Clayhite has an option to buy a further 10 per cent.

## GILT-EDGED

### Bizarre monetary behaviour may lead to 13% yields

The Treasury is teasing us. It pretends to be the prodigal son — returning repentant to the path of virtue — but, as soon as we accept its assurances, it reverts to its earlier hedonistic ways. Whenever we begin to forecast the implications of more sensible credit policies, the authorities turn the money tap back on and drink themselves into a stupor.

Chancellor Major, no less than his predecessor, has vacillated between monetary excess and moderation. His early weeks in the job, when credit was gushing extravagantly, could be explained by reference to the situation mess he had inherited.

It was only when the implications of the headily expansive policy finally began to penetrate official thinking — the Ford pay settlement may have been the key — that a change was implemented.

Money was contained, not through the price mechanism afforded by base rates, but by action in the gilt market. Reverse auctions were cancelled, and the negative borrowing requirement was allowed to eat into the asset base of the commercial banks. The resulting credit squeeze raised other interest rates — notably bond yields and the cost of mortgages — and lifted sterling.

What did it probably also do to slow the growth of the economy. Still fast last autumn (possibly as high as 4.5 per cent), it may have slowed to about 3 per cent. The trade figures, reliable indicators of internal demand, are consistent with such moderation.

This all seemed to be in line with official pronouncements emphasizing that containing inflation was the Government's top priority. It implied that monetary austerity would be the key, and that only when activity was more balanced, with pay settlements close to the international norm, would

the brakes come off. It suggested a difficult near-term future for gilts, but a better one in the second half of 1990 and throughout 1991.

But now all the indications are that the recidivist authorities have turned yet again to their old ways. Sterling has been falling like a stone and consumer credit has also picked up.

What can the authorities be playing at? Are they not aware that they thereby risk double-digit inflation in the year before a General Election?

What we can probably reject out of hand, though, is the thesis that they are scared of imminent recession. On the contrary, a short, sharp economic shock would be desirable.

much more likely candidate for official anxiety

is the possibility of a mortgage crisis. If ministers thought they saw an emerging problem, they might be prepared to risk somewhat higher inflation.

They would argue that the monetary pressure had still to be applied, but that it would have to be "phased." The pain (as measured by the rate of increase of interest charges) could not be allowed to become too intense. Every now and then, money would have to be injected into the system to help lift property prices and to keep the volume of transactions ticking over.

If that is why the authorities are behaving in so bizarre a monetary fashion, it implies a squeeze that is going to be more protracted than envisaged, but less acute. It means the improvement in the economy will take longer and that the near-term deterioration in the gilt market is going to be greater than thought. However, we must maintain last autumn's negative posture — 13 per cent yields at the long end cannot be ruled out.

Roger Nightingale  
Smith New Court

## QUEBEC CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY

### Notice to Security Holders

The Annual General Meeting of the Quebec Central Railway Company will be held in the Quebec Central Railway Company, 1000, rue de la Gauchetière Est, Montréal, Quebec, Canada, on Wednesday, the 18th day of April, 1990, at the hour of 11:00 outside in the hall of the Quebec Central Railway Company, for the purpose of the election of two directors to the Quebec Central Railway Company and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

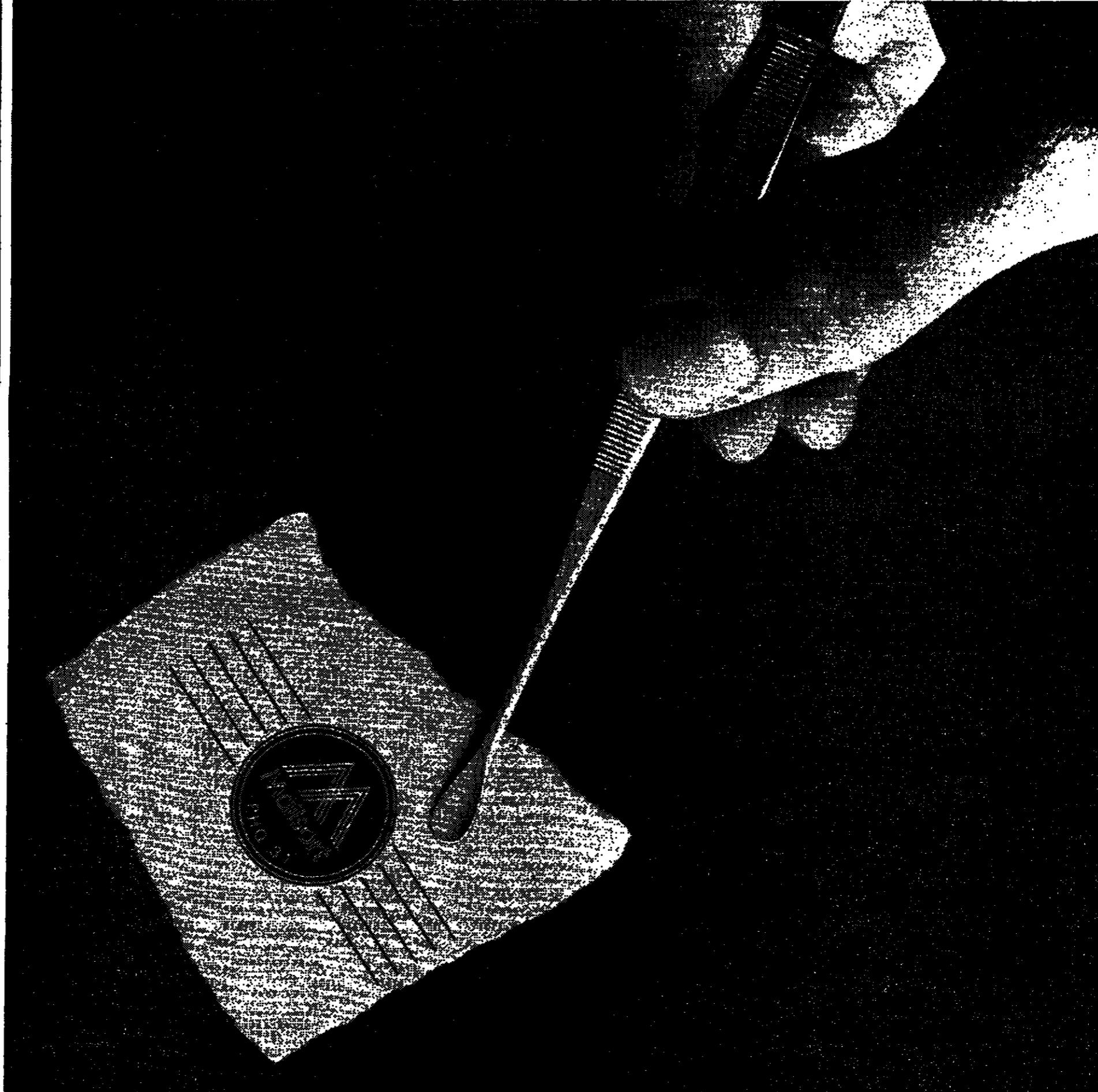
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
P. L. Bégin  
Administrative Secretary  
MONTREAL, Quebec,  
February 22, 1990

## THE STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Stockwatch gives access to more than 13,000 share, unit trust and bond prices. General market 0898 121220; company news 0898 121221; active shares 0898 121225.

Calls at 38p per minute peak, 25p standard, inc. VAT.



TO STANLEY GIBBONS IT'S WORTH £7,150.  
TO YOU, MAYBE MORE.

If you send out more than 4000 letters at a time, you could save yourself more than the value of a Penny Black.

Mailsort could save you over 15% on your postage.

All you have to do is help us by sorting your addresses electronically before they are printed. We'll give you all the help you need, including a computer database, a comprehensive user guide and someone who will show you how to organise your mail by postcode.

Sort out the bottom lines on your envelopes and you could improve your own bottom line.

For more information fill in the coupon and send to Peter Wigglesworth, Mailsort Marketing, Department T11, Freepost 7, London SW1P 1YJ or call 0800 100 142.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_



Royal Mail  
Business

IF YOU ARE  
PAYING  
MORE THAN  
11%

For your Mortgage  
THEN RING THIS NUMBER NOW!

(0222) 236 668

24 HOUR SERVICE

K & S (BROKER CONSULTANTS)

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 36-40
- PRICES: CHANGE ON WEEK 36
- ECONOMIC VIEW: REFORM NERVE 38
- TEMPS: THE TAMING OF ADT 39

# BUSINESS

MONDAY MARCH 12 1990

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton  
CHANGE ON WEEK  
THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6185 (-0.0345)

W German mark  
2.7588 (-0.0772)

Exchange index  
86.6 (-2.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1763.8 (-10.4)

FT-SE 100  
2234.3 (-20.5)

USM (Datastream)  
145.72 (-3.19)

Saatchis  
face UK  
downturn

Saatchi & Saatchi, the troubled advertising group, is facing a downturn in its main British advertising communications division this year.

UK advertising, which last year accounted for about 15 per cent of profits, is expected to see a 1 per cent revenue fall according to Saatchi, although some analysts see 5 per cent.

The decline will put pressure on margins and may have been a factor in the recent warning that profits would not meet analysts' forecasts by M Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the chief executive.

Pressure has been mounting on the Saatchi brothers before tomorrow's annual meeting as the group needs to reduce its debt by about £250 million.

The group is selling its management consultancies, of which Hays, the largest, is expected to fetch more than £50 million, with about £50 million for the rest.

A group of rebel shareholders, including M Joseph Marciano, a French financial analyst, has been threatening to criticize the board on its management. The shares closed at 139p on Friday, against a 1988 high of 45p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.25	2.10	2.10
Austria Sch	10.25	10.00	10.00
Belgium Fr	60.30	58.40	58.40
Canada \$	1.05	1.00	1.00
Denmark Kr	11.00	10.40	10.40
Finland Mark	6.85	6.42	6.42
France Fr	8.72	8.12	8.12
Germany DM	2.00	1.90	1.90
Greece Dr	2.64	2.58	2.58
Hong Kong \$	12.50	12.40	12.40
Ireland Pt	1.05	1.02	1.02
Ireland \$	2.20	2.10	2.10
Japan Yen	2.20	2.14	2.14
Netherlands Gld	3.25	3.15	3.15
Norway Kr	11.15	10.50	10.50
Portugal Esc	4.60	4.20	4.20
South Africa R	4.60	4.20	4.20
Spain Pta	181.50	177.50	177.50
Sweden Kr	10.55	9.50	9.50
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.10	2.10
Turkey Lira	4.00	3.80	3.80
USA \$	1.705	1.605	1.605
Yugoslavia Dinar	refer	refer	refer

Rates for small deposit bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 119.5 (January)

## EC to agree development bank for East Europe

From Michael Birney  
Brussels

European Community finance ministers will today approve plans to set up a new bank for Eastern Europe. They will also debate a request by the EC for a substantial increase in its budget over the next three years to cover emergency aid for Eastern bloc countries.

Financial experts met in Paris at the weekend to negotiate the draft statutes for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, including its constitution, a weighted voting system for share-

holders and the complex issue of Soviet participation.

But ministers must today tackle the two main issues still unresolved: the bank's location and its first president. Britain is lobbying hard for the headquarters to be in London, and Mr John Major, the Chancellor, will present his colleagues with a glossy brochure outlining the advantages of the City. He will insist that London already has a wealth of expertise and close banking links with Eastern Europe.

The Bank, a French initiative agreed by the 12 EC member states

at the Elysée Summit on Eastern Europe last November, will be the main channel of international aid to that region. It is due to be established next month, and could begin lending by the end of 1990.

EC members are to hold at least 51 per cent of the shares, but the US is expected to be the largest single shareholder. The Soviet Union will also be allowed to hold up to 8 per cent of the shares, but ministers will today attempt to set a ceiling on Soviet borrowing. They do not want the massive needs of its failing economy to soak up all the funds. The bank's capital will

probably be denominated in European currency units — though this could be a problem for the US, which will have to seek a dollar sum from Congress. Britain, which argues that the bank should not be used for state projects but to encourage private enterprise, is reluctant to allow the Russians access to much of the money, believing that Moscow has not yet fulfilled the criteria for multi-party democracy and for a market economy.

Nor does Britain want the EC as a whole to hold a large block of shares, saying individual members

should contribute the capital and have a decisive say in the bank's running.

The bank is expected to employ up to 1,000 people when fully operational. Bids to host it have been received from at least a dozen cities, including Amsterdam, Brussels, Luxembourg and Copenhagen.

Ministers today will also debate proposals by the European Commission to raise the EC budget over the next three years by more than 2 billion ecus (£2.71 billion). Much of this money will be earmarked for Eastern Europe, with about 500

million ecus to be spent this year, 850 million next year and a billion in 1992.

The Commission also wants to increase aid to Latin America and the Mediterranean countries to keep regional assistance in balance. But while poorer EC members favour plans to raise spending on several internal policies, including transport and the environment, wealthier northern countries are taking a harder line. They say all spending, other than that on Eastern Europe, could have been foreseen and there is no justification for an increase now.

## BAe poised to sign \$1bn Romania deal

By Paul Martin

British Aerospace is set to sign a long-term aircraft production deal with Romania, estimated to be worth at least \$1 billion over the next decade.

The company said it would be the largest technology transfer deal in civil aviation.

"In terms of turnover, I suspect it will put even the McDonnell-Douglas deal with China in the shade," said Mr Garry Bishop, BAe's projects director. The contracts are expected to be signed before the end of April.

News of the impending deal was revealed to *The Times* by two senior Romanian cabinet ministers, Mr Victor Stanulescu, the Industry and Planning Minister, who has just taken over the defence portfolio, and Mr Aurel Stoica, who is in charge of mechanical industry and aviation.

They have been in London for talks with leading British companies on re-energizing their country's economy. Mr Stanulescu said: "Romanian

companies will have complete freedom to deal directly with British companies."

Mr Bishop said the project is designed to produce 10 BAC-111/500s a year in Romania. They will carry updated avionics and be powered by the Rolls-Royce Tay engine. The bulk will be for export but some will be allocated to Tarom, the local airline.

"At one BAC-111 a year, you don't have an aircraft industry. We are building up under the new deal to 10 aircraft a year — to start with. If the project is to be successful, we will have to look beyond that."

Mr Stanulescu said Romania is planning to become a leading producer of spare parts and also a base for repairs to the world's fleet of BAC-111s, of which 220 are already in operation.

BAe is understood to be cautious on this, but Mr Bishop added the Romanians already have a repair facility for certain Soviet aircraft, which could be expanded.

Seven BAC-111s have been produced in Romania since 1982, but, according to Mr Stanulescu, the project had become virtually moribund "because of the failure on the Romanian side to keep promises." British Aerospace had been frustrated by lack of decision-making, and by poor management at middle and upper level, but had been

satisfied with the shop floor workers.

With a new government taking shape after the revolution, BAe is convinced the business climate has radically altered. "It has made us extremely optimistic. Without a change of attitude and a change of approach it [the project] was going nowhere," said Mr Bishop.

"The deal will be simple: Romania's contribution is its labour, or manufacturing capability," Mr Bishop said. Financing for the project is to be raised primarily from British, Japanese and American sources.

Seven BAC-111s have been produced in Romania since 1982, but, according to Mr Stanulescu, the project had become virtually moribund "because of the failure on the Romanian side to keep promises." British Aerospace had been frustrated by lack of decision-making, and by poor management at middle and upper level, but had been

general agreement for a £91 million development to build 100,000 engines and 15,000 cars annually in Hungary, making it one of the biggest players in the redevelopment of Eastern Germany.

It has signed an agreement with Automobile Works Eisenach (AWE).

GM proved one of the most successful companies in Western Europe with its joint venture with AWE.

GM said in January that it

had agreement for a £91 million development to build 100,000 engines and 15,000 cars annually in Hungary, making it one of the biggest players in the redevelopment of Eastern Germany.

It has signed an agreement with Automobile Works Eisenach (AWE).

GM proved one of the most successful companies in Western Europe with its joint venture with AWE.

GM said in January that it

## New circuit for CEGB papers



Mr John Baker, chief executive designate of National Power, prepares for the flotation of the electricity industry, due this year. This morning, Mr Baker will hand over two years of CEGB paperwork on privatizing the power-generating industry to Mr John Wakeham, the Secretary of State for Energy. The papers document the handover of the CEGB to National

12.25% fixed-rate

mortgages.

You'll have to  
hurry, but you don't  
have to move.

13.4%

Typical APR

endowment mortgage must be the most attractive — and versatile — so far.

The rate is fixed for a full 25 years, although you can switch into a variable rate at any time, without penalty, at three months' notice.

There are no arrangement fees.

The loan is available on up to 95% of the property's value.

And it's available for both mortgages and remortgages: you don't have to move to get one.

You will have to hurry, though, because funds are limited.

For written details, call John Charcol, a licensed credit broker, on (01) 589 7080.

Or write to us at Mercury House, 195 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RE.

**JOHN CHARCOL**

Talk about a better mortgage.  
0 1 - 5 8 9 - 7 0 8 0

The product advertised here is not regulated by the Financial Services Act 1986 and the rules made for the protection of investors by that Act will not apply to it. Credit broker fees may be charged depending on the type of product and credit period, and insurance may also be required. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it.

## Pound pressure grows in week before Budget

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

The pound today enters the last week before the Budget facing a foreign exchange market bent on testing how far it will fall while the Government remains politically inhibited from raising interest rates.

Bearish sentiment for the pound and gilts last week sent the Bank of England's trade-weighted index down to 86.3 at £21 on Friday.

The original offer of \$8.5 a share had been increased following negotiations with the special committee of NMS's board.

Mr Nigel Richardson, who is UK economist at Warburg

Securities said that the downward pressure on the pound reflected a market looking for a political risk premium.

Mr Richard Jeffrey, senior economist at Hoare Govett, the broker, expects sterling to reach new lows in the months ahead, falling to \$1.50 and DM2.50, compared with Friday's New York finish of \$1.61 and DM2.75, before recovering at the year-end.

Mr Nigel Richardson, who is UK economist at Warburg

## Laura Ashley warns of future debt problems

By George Sivell

Laura Ashley, the fashion and interior decor retailer, has warned bankers of deteriorating financial circumstances.

Two banks supporting a £75 million loan facility sought the Bank of England's guidance last week. It is understood the Bank encouraged continued lending.

Laura Ashley warned all 14 banks in the syndicate that a future breach of its covenants was possible. But it denied

Borrowings are understood to be £80 million, virtually matching shareholders' funds.

Pathe zooms in on European media groups to help its \$1.2bn offer

## Maxwell seen as backer for MGM bid

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles  
Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, is believed in Hollywood to be one of four Europeans with media interests who has been approached to help fund the \$1.2 billion takeover of MGM United Artists Communications.

The bid, launched on Wednesday, by Pathé Communications — formerly the Cannon Group — the small independent film-maker, which is now owned and run by Signor Giancarlo Parretti, an Italian financier, has been greeted with financial scepticism among some film industry executives and Wall Street analysts.

Signor Parretti took control of Cannon almost two years ago, boasting that he wanted to spend \$1 billion buying MGM and \$800 million buying other film and television com-

panies. Since then, he has bought nothing.

It is understood that, besides Mr Maxwell, the Hachette group of France, Signor Silvio Berlusconi, Italy's leading film and television businessman, and Polygram, the Dutch record group, have been approached.

Pathe has three more days to prove it can come up with the money. Before starting his tender offer for MGM shares on Wall Street this Wednesday, Signor Parretti must file every detail of the proposed financing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the share dealing watchdog.

Signor Parretti needs to prove he is worth almost \$2 billion. He needs \$1.2 billion in cash to meet his \$20-a-share term for the ordinary and

preferred MGM shares, \$400 million to take on MGM's last-standing debts and \$400 million as working capital to fund this year's film making.

Pathe's assets are estimated at \$655 million. The company made a \$50 million loss in the first nine months of last year compared with a \$20 million profit in the whole of 1988.

His own officials estimate Signor Parretti could raise almost \$1 billion from asset sales. Of this, between \$200 and \$500 million would come from the sale of property in Spain and cinemas throughout Europe. Cannon used to own a third of all British cinemas.

He could raise a further \$600 million selling MGM's coveted film library. The favoured buyer for the lib-

rary is rival studio Warner Brothers. Pathé said it could not comment on any of the approaches